



TOWN OF ROCKPORT

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

APRIL 5, 2014

This booklet is an aid to Town Meeting voters and incorporates the Warrants, Motions, Finance Committee Report, Planning Board Information on Zoning Articles and other handouts.

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Town Meetings

The Town of Rockport has an Open Town Meeting form of government meaning that any registered voter may vote at Town Meeting. Open town meeting has been the basic form of local government in New England for hundreds of years. This is a form of pure democracy where citizens directly administer the affairs of their Town. Registered voters are invited to assemble as citizen-legislators and participate in the future of the Town by enacting By-Laws and voting on matters put before them. All registered voters can vote in town meetings while non-registered visitors may attend, but not vote. Visitors are seated in a separate section to make counting votes easier.

Following is a general overview of key terms, roles, the voting process and general rules of order for Town Meetings.

TERMS

For those who may be unfamiliar with the special language of Town Meetings and Municipal Finance, the following may be helpful.

- **Abatements:** A reduction or elimination of a levy imposed by a governmental unit, applicable to tax levies, motor vehicle excise, fees, charges and special assessments.
- **Article:** The topic to be considered and voted at Town Meeting.
- **Assessors' Overlay:** An account established annually to fund anticipated property tax abatements and exemptions in that year. Any surplus at year end, after being certified and released by the Assessors may be appropriated for another purpose.
- **Assessment:** The Board of Assessors' opinion of the value of your property.
- **Available Funds:** These are funds established through previous appropriations or results of favorable conditions. These may be appropriated to meet emergency or unforeseen expenses, large one-time expenses or capital expenditures. This term is also sometimes used as a placeholder on warrant articles before exact amounts are determined for the motions.
- **Betterments:** A special property tax assessed on each parcel receiving benefit from a public improvement such as water, sewer or sidewalks to reimburse the Town for all or part of the costs incurred.
- **Budget:** A financial plan for a given period of time embodying, both, estimates of proposed expenditures and proposed means of financing them.
- **Capital Budget:** Appropriations for tangible assets or projects that cost at least \$10,000 and have a useful life of at least three years. The Town votes most capital purchases and projects in Article 6 of the Annual Town Meeting. The Capital Budget is Article 6 in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
- **Chapter 70:** The Chapter of the State law that governs the funding of schools. It is also the common name for the largest part of state funding to schools.
- **Chapter 90:** The Chapter of the State law that governs the funding of roads and highway improvements. It is also the common name for the largest part of state funding to highways.

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- **Cherry Sheets:** State aid to the Town so called because they were once printed on cherry red paper. The Cherry Sheet details the estimated state aid to be received by the Town along with the County and State assessments to be paid.
- **Choice:** Also referred to as School Choice. Money that flows into the school district from the state when the system accepts students from outside the district.
- **Debt Service:** The principal and interest payments on borrowing. Long term debt is the issuance of municipal bonds to pay for large capital purchases or projects. Short term borrowing costs are interest-only for purchases not yet bonded and for cash flow management.
- **Direct and Indirect Costs:** Direct costs are expenses such as salaries, contracted work, fuel, materials and supplies used in providing a service and running a Town department. Indirect costs are other expenses in the Operating Budget such as health insurance premiums, pension contributions and debt service.
- **Enterprise Fund:** A fund separate from the Town's General Fund established to record all the direct and indirect costs of providing a specific service, allowing the Town to recover the cost of the service through user fees. Rockport has two enterprise funds at present for water and sewer.
- **Excess Levy Capacity:** The difference between a community's maximum tax levy limit and the amount it actually levies in property taxes.
- **Exclusion:** An item that the Town Meeting and voters agree to fund outside the limits of Proposition 2½.
- **Fiscal Year:** The Commonwealth and municipalities operate on a fiscal year which begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th. The number of the fiscal year is that of the calendar year in which the fiscal year ends.
- **Fixed Costs:** Expenses which involve a mandate or contractual obligation and therefore cannot be cut in the budget process such as long term debt service and state assessments.
- **Free Cash:** Funds remaining from the operations of a previous fiscal year which may be appropriated after they have been certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. These include unspent appropriations and revenue collected in excess of estimates.
- **General Fund:** The town's checking account. The General Fund can be expended only for the items approved by Town Meeting.
- **Hold:** The request to delay consideration of one part of a multi-part article. Any item that a Town Meeting member questions is marked as a hold and will be discussed after the unquestioned items have been voted.
- **Levy Limit:** The maximum amount of real estate taxes a community can levy in a given year. The limit can grow each year by 2½% of the prior year's levy limit plus new growth and any overrides.
- **Liability:** A financial obligation of the Town arising from past transactions resulting in money owed, debts or other pecuniary obligations.
- **Local Receipts:** Revenue, other than property tax, raised and collected by the Town such as water and sewer fees, car and boat excise taxes, trash fees, fines and interest.
- **Motion:** The specific statement to be voted.

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- **New Growth:** The taxing capacity added by new construction and other increases in the property tax base. New growth is calculated by multiplying the value associated with new construction by the tax rate of the previous fiscal year.
- **OPEB:** Stands for Other Post-Employment Benefits, primarily health care premiums, that the Town is responsible for paying for its eligible retired employees.
- **Operating Budget:** The budget for routine, recurring expenses during the fiscal year starting on July 1 through June 30, which includes all labor and expenses. The Operating Budget is Article 5 in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
- **Overlay:** The overlay is the amount raised by the Assessors independently of Town Meeting as permitted by law for the purpose of creating a fund to cover property tax abatements and avoid fractions in the tax rate.
- **Override:** A referendum procedure in which a community by popular vote can either increase its levy limit (general override) or collect property taxes in excess of its levy limit to finance specific capital expenditures (debt exclusion or capital outlay exclusion).
- **Pension:** Sometimes referred to as Retirement wherein an employer makes contributions toward a pool of funds set aside for an employee's future income after they retire and are no longer earning a salary or wages.
- **Reserve Fund:** The fund established by the voters at Annual Town Meeting for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures. Transfers from the Reserve Fund require the approval of the Finance Committee.
- **School Choice:** The Massachusetts school choice law (G.L. Chapter 76, Section 12B) allows parents to send their children to public schools in communities other than the one in which they reside, provided there is room in the receiving school district. Chapter 70 state aid for education is given to the school where the child is enrolled, not the school in the town where he/she lives.
- **Sewer Enterprise:** The sewer enterprise has a separate operating budget which can be found in Article 5B and a separate capital outlay plan which can be found in Article 6B.
- **Stabilization Fund:** A general or special purpose savings account deposited into, or withdrawn from, at Town Meetings with a 2/3 vote.
- **Structural Deficit:** An ongoing budget problem which occurs when annual expenditures exceed annual revenue. Even when budgets are balanced through drawing down reserves and using other non-recurring funding sources, the problem occurs in subsequent years unless expenditures are cut or new revenue is raised.
- **Tax Rate:** The calculated ratio of the total assessed value of properties to be paid as tax, based on the total amount of taxes required to be levied to pay for the obligations and expenses of a municipality in a given year. The specific tax rate is expressed in terms of a unit of the tax base. For example \$11.27 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation of a taxable property.
- **Transfers:** A budgeted item may be funded by decreasing the budget for another department or by moving money from one fund to another such as taking money from the Ambulance Fund and putting it in the General Fund to cover the operating budget for the Ambulance Department. Both types of transfers require a vote of Town Meeting.

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- **Warrant:** The agenda for the meeting that lists the topics so called because it gives all registered voters warning of what to expect at the meeting.
- **Water Enterprise:** The water enterprise has a separate operating budget which can be found in Article 5A and a separate capital outlay plan which can be found in Article 6A.

Many citizens ask how they are taxed or charged, not merely what the terms mean. The following describes how real estate taxes and water/sewer rates are derived.

Your Real Estate Tax Bill

There are several factors that go into the determination of your real estate tax bill:

1. The amount of spending in the operating departments;
2. Plus the retiree pension and health insurance payments;
3. Plus debt service;
4. Less the amount of local revenue; and
5. Less the amount of state aid.

The result is the amount of the real estate tax levy. Under Proposition 2½, this levy is limited to:

1. Last year's levy limit plus 2½% growth;
2. Plus additions to the levy known "new growth" which is generated when a house is new or significantly renovated causing an increase in assessed values and, thereby, creating an increase in the tax base; and
3. Plus any Proposition 2½% overrides previously approved by the voters.

Once the year's levy is established, the tax rate is determined by dividing the levy by the total assessed value of the Town's taxpayers' real estate. Therefore the change in the tax rate is determined by both the change in the levy and the change in the total assessed valuation. The resulting tax for your property is the product of its assessed value and the tax rate.

Your Water & Sewer Bill

There are also several factors that go into the determination of your water and sewer bill:

1. The total costs required to operate the water and/or sewer operations which include the treatment plants, the water distribution system, the sewer pump stations and collection systems;
2. Less the amount of enterprise revenues received from other sources such as water and sewer permits and fees for water turnoff services; and
3. The remaining costs are divided by the total estimated amount, in terms of thousands of gallons, of water and/or sewer usage in the Town.

This calculation results in the water and sewer rate at a cost per each thousand of gallons of water and/or sewer used. For instance, if a year's operating costs are \$2,000,000 less fee revenues of \$100,000 (\$1,900,000) divided by 160 million gallons, the resulting rate would be \$11.87 per thousand gallons.

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ROLES

Any town meeting requires, at a minimum, a Moderator and a Town Clerk. There are a few other key players who provide support to the Moderator, the Town Clerk, and the Voters at the meeting.

- **Board of Selectmen:** A five-member executive board, each elected for a three-year term, they are responsible for setting the time and place of town meetings as well as placing articles on the warrant to be considered and voted upon. This Board acts on the Town's behalf on various matters between Town Meetings as well.
- **Finance Committee:** A nine-member advisory committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen, this committee's primary responsibility is to make recommendations to Town Meeting on all financial matters, including the annual operating budget, capital projects, borrowing, and funding sources. The Finance Committee advises and reports to the voters at Town Meeting.
- **Moderator:** The presiding officer at all Town Meetings is the Moderator. According to State law, the Moderator's primary responsibility is to "preside and regulate the proceedings, decide all questions of order, and make public declaration of all votes".
- **Planning Board:** State law requires this Board to make plans for the development of the Town and also to provide the Board of Selectmen with a report and recommendations.
- **Town Administrator:** The chief administrative officer of the Town, this person supervises and directs the administration of all departments, boards and offices that are subject to the appointment of the Board of Selectmen.
- **Town Clerk:** Elected for a three-year term, the Town Clerk is responsible for distributing the Warrant, keeping a tally of the votes, and producing the official record of Town Meeting.
- **Town Counsel:** Appointed by the Board of Selectmen, Town Counsel is responsible for providing legal opinions and advises the Moderator as needed.

VOTING

The voting process begins with a notice or warning made public and available to the registered voters in the form of a Warrant. The Warrant is the agenda for the meeting and consists of a number of Articles, each describing some general subject to be discussed. State law provides that it is to be assembled by the Board of Selectmen and posted by the Constable at least seven days before the Annual Town Meeting and fourteen days before a Special Town Meeting. A copy of the Warrant is also available on the Town's website at www.townofrockport.com. Those wishing to access this Voter Booklet and documents filed with the Town Clerk on their mobile devices may do so by accessing the school wireless network. Access directions will be provided at the start of the meeting. Items on the Warrant to be considered by the voters at Town Meeting are called Articles and may be proposed by Town boards, committees or by citizen's petition.

An Article on the Warrant is not by itself a self-starting "motion", but only defines the scope of the Main Motions to be addressed, debated, and voted. Votes are never made on Articles, only on specific Motions to take actions based on items described in the Articles. Sometimes a motion will be ruled by the Moderator to be within or outside of the "Four Corners" of the Article which determines how broad a motion can be and the range of what one can say.

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There may also be a Motion to Amend which is an example of a Subsidiary Motion because it addresses the Main Motion. Another Subsidiary Motion is to Move the Question. The exact term is to Move the Previous Question and means the speaker has heard enough and wants to stop debating the topic. He or she cannot interrupt a speaker, there must be a second, and if two-thirds of the body agrees, the debate stops immediately and a vote on the motion is taken.

There is another type of motion called Incidental – a civil way to say somebody has a question about the conduct of the meeting such as a person is speaking without the permission of the Moderator or the topic is frivolous. Technically, it is not a motion so there is no need for a second or debate and someone can interrupt the speaker with this action. The Moderator will decide the point without debate.

Addressing the Meeting is when someone wishes to speak and approaches the microphone on the floor and must wait to be recognized by the Moderator. Speakers then state their names and addresses and say what they have to say on the topic. A speaker may continue, up to the time allowed as long as he or she speaks directly to the Article under discussion. Any comments and questions are to be addressed to the Moderator. Speakers who address anyone else directly are out of order which the Moderator is responsible for keeping.

At times there may be a request to recount the vote after the Moderator declares the results of a voice vote. This will lead to a vote by show of hands or standing to resolve the outcome of the vote.

Each voting Citizen has a responsibility to understand what the Article and its Motion is asking them to approve before voting. The Finance Committee has developed the following checklist to help voters consider money-related as well as other types of requests:

1. **Is it necessary?** Or is it something that is not really needed or perhaps already being provided by a private or public group?
2. **Can we afford it?** Remember, there is no limit to what we would like, but there is a limit to what we can afford.
3. **What will it ultimately cost?** Many proposals are like icebergs – only a small fraction of the total cost is apparent on the surface.
4. **How will it affect basic liberties?** If it imposes unreasonable or illegal restraints on your life or that of others, it should be vigorously opposed.
5. **Is it in the balanced best interest of all?** If it is designed to benefit a small group of special interests while taking advantage of others, work for its defeat.
6. **Is it a “Foot in the Door” proposition?** Compromising a little now may bring an oppressive burden later, either in more regulations or more taxes or a combination of both.
7. **Does it place too much power in the hands of one individual or group?** Once the decisive power is granted to a non-elected public official or a commission as a municipal authority, the private citizen loses effective control.
8. **Is its appeal based on emotional propaganda or facts?** The further a proposition gets away from facts, the more critical one should be.

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RULES OF ORDER

This section is from the Town Moderator who is responsible for maintaining order at town meetings. Rockport's Town Meetings are conducted in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and Chapter 2 of our Code of By-Laws.

A few points of parliamentary procedure applicable to town meetings are outlined below:

- The subject of discussion will always be a pending motion, not a warrant article. A warrant article provides notice to the town meeting that a subject matter may be considered. It is not a proposal for action. A motion is a proposal for action by the town meeting and every motion must be within the scope of an article in the warrant.
- With respect to each warrant article, the Moderator will first recognize a proponent to offer a motion and, after the motion is seconded, to state the reasons for that motion.
- Next the Moderator will recognize a member of an advisory committee to state the committee's recommendation and its reasons for that recommendation. Rockport has town advisory committees:
 1. The Finance Committee is primarily concerned with warrant articles which involve expenditure of Town funds.
 2. The Town Government and By-law Committee makes recommendations on warrant articles which involve changes in the Code of By-laws or in the Town's charter.
- If you wish to speak, first you must get the attention of the Moderator. Raising your hand should do it and holding the Voter Card that is provided to you at the beginning of the meeting in your hand makes it more noticeable. If raising your hand does not work, try standing and/or call out "Mr. Moderator".
- When you have been recognized by the Moderator, either wait for a portable microphone to come to you (perhaps by standing you will be easier to find) or go to any floor microphone.
- After you have a microphone, first state your name and address. Remember to address all remarks to the Moderator, not to others in the meeting, and to ask all questions through the Moderator.
- The Moderator gives preference to people who have not yet spoken on an issue before calling on someone for a second or third time. See Code of by-laws c.2, §4.3.
- The Code of By-laws c.2, §4.f establishes time limits for speakers: 10 minutes for the principal proponent of a main motion and 5 minutes for everyone else.
- When the Moderator senses that the meeting is ready to vote, he will state the question. That is a warning that debate is ending as well as a reminder of the motion on which the meeting will be voting. If you have doubt about the exact issue or a question about procedure, please ask then. Once the voting has begun, any discussion will be out of order.
- A motion to reconsider requires a two-thirds vote. Also, any person intending to move for reconsideration must give notice of that intent to the Moderator within thirty minutes after the vote reconsideration of which is sought. See Code of by-laws c.2, §4.i.

The following is an excerpt from the Rockport Code of By-laws, Chapter 2. Town Meetings, Section 4. Rules of Procedure

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- a. **In General.** The proceedings of Town Meetings shall be governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure contained in Robert's Rules of Order, as the same may be revised from time to time, so far as they may be adapted to Town Meetings, unless another provision is made by statute or by these by-laws.
- b. **Quorum.** For any session, including any adjourned session of a meeting convened on a date specified in Section 2.b, the quorum shall be those persons present. For any other Town Meeting 150 voters shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may vote to adjourn.
- c. **Order of Action.**

(i) Other than the first six (6) articles of the Annual Town Meeting, which shall be acted upon in order of their arrangement in the warrant, the order of action upon articles in the warrant shall be determined by lottery conducted by the Town Clerk in such a manner to insure that, at all times, the meeting knows which article will follow the one on the floor. The Moderator may rule that certain warrant articles are related, in which event all related articles shall come on for action when the first of them is drawn.

(ii) Any person intending to move the adoption of a resolution not under any article shall give notice of any such proposed resolution to the Moderator prior to the opening of the meeting or as soon thereafter as practicable. The Moderator shall then announce to the Town Meeting the substance of the proposed resolution and shall further announce that the proposed resolution shall be considered immediately after all business under the warrant articles has been concluded.

(iii) The meeting may, by four-fifths vote, exempt any warrant article from the lottery and schedule it for action at any time certain or accelerate the time for consideration of any proposed resolution. The meeting may, by majority vote, postpone action under any warrant article to a time certain.

(iv) Each main motion pursuant to an article in the warrant must be phrased so that an affirmative (yes) vote indicates approval of the subject matter of the article and a negative (no) vote indicates disapproval of such subject matter. The use of "to postpone indefinitely" as a main motion is prohibited.

- d. **Participation in Debate.** With respect to each article in the warrant, the Moderator shall first recognize the sponsor to offer a main motion. No person, except a legal voter of the Town, shall be permitted to take part in a Town Meeting except by permission of the Moderator.
- e. **Addressing the Meeting; literature.** No person shall address the meeting unless recognized by the Moderator, nor speak more than once on the same subject to the exclusion of any other person who desires to speak. Nor shall any literature other than copies of the warrant and official reports thereon be distributed in the building within which the meeting is held or within 150 feet thereof, except that literature (clearly identified as to its proponent or source) may, with the prior approval of the Moderator, be left on tables near the entrance for voters to pick up when entering the hall.

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- f. **Limitation of Individual Speakers.** Unless granted an extension of time by vote of the meeting, the individual speaking as the principal proponent of a main motion shall not speak for more than ten minutes. Subsequently, any person speaking on any motion shall not speak for more than five minutes unless granted an extension of time by the meeting.
- g. **Division of Questions.** If a motion is susceptible of division, it shall be divided and question put separately upon each part thereof if ten voters so request, or the Moderator, in his discretion, so directs.
- h. **Standing Vote.**
 - (i) On matters requiring a majority or two-thirds vote, the vote need not be counted or recorded. However, if the vote declared by the chair is immediately doubted or a division of the house is called for, or if a four-fifths or nine-tenths vote is required by statute and the vote is not unanimous, a standing vote shall be ordered.
 - (ii) Before a standing vote, the Moderator shall request all persons in the house to be seated and may appoint tellers. The question shall then be distinctly stated, and those voting in the affirmative and negative, respectively, shall rise and stand in their places until they are counted by the Moderator or tellers. No person shall be counted who does not comply with the request to occupy a seat.
 - (iii) Upon request of twenty voters, the vote on any question shall be taken by written ballot. The request for vote by ballot may be made at any time prior to the vote being taken on any question. The form of the ballot used and the method of issuing, collecting and counting such ballots shall be as determined by the Moderator. It shall be the duty of the Town Clerk to have available at every Town Meeting a sufficient supply of such ballots.
- i. **Reconsideration.** A motion to reconsider a matter previously acted upon shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Any person intending to move for reconsideration shall give notice of such intent to the Moderator promptly and in no event, except by unanimous consent, more than thirty (30) minutes after the vote reconsideration of which is sought, regardless of whether or not the meeting is then in session. The Moderator shall, as soon as is practicable, inform the Town Meeting as to when the motion for reconsideration will be presented. All motions for reconsideration shall be presented before any new warrant article is taken up for action at the beginning of the next succeeding session of Town Meeting unless action on all other warrant articles is completed prior to the end of the session during which such notice is given, in which case motions for reconsideration shall be presented immediately after all other business, except for resolutions not under a warrant article, has been concluded.
- j. **Motion to Dissolve Meeting.** No motion the effect of which would be to dissolve the meeting shall be in order until every article in the warrant has come to the floor and there has been a reasonable opportunity for a motion in accordance with Section 4.c(iv) pursuant to every article. This section shall not preclude the postponement of consideration of any article by adjournment of the meeting to a stated time.

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Report of the Finance Committee

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The proposed total spending for Town operations (Article 5) is \$25,889,157 for FY2015, an increase of 1.8% over FY2014. This number includes the Town's contribution to the School Department. In the discussion below we provide a thorough analysis of both Government's and the Schools' numbers.

The proposed budgets for the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds (Articles 5A and 5B) total \$3,450,796, a decrease of \$30,974 or 1.0% from last year. These funds are covered solely by water and sewer user fees and are, therefore, separate from the main operating budget and don't affect the tax rate.

The proposed Capital Spending Items (Articles 6, 6A and 6B) total \$1,370,260. The proposal for Town Operations (Article 6) is \$596,060. The proposal for the Enterprise Funds (Articles 6A and 6B) totals \$774,200.

KEY FINANCIAL DECISIONS FOR VOTERS

In addition to the normal requests for approval of routine budget items, there are a few key items for voters to understand this year:

1. The proposed budget includes an unusually large increase in funding for the schools. This is necessary to adequately fund the schools and to eliminate the necessity for a Proposition 2½ override.
2. Separately, the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and the Finance Committee recommend the establishment of a SPED Stabilization Fund as described below. This significantly reduces the uncertainty the School Committee faces in its budgeting process.
3. There are several waterfront projects proposed for this year. Most are expected to be funded by FEMA to the extent of 75%. The process is complicated, but the Finance Committee is recommending their approval.
4. Payments for debt service will increase substantially over the next few years. This assumes that no future debt issues are approved after those in today's articles which is very unlikely.

OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The numbers below show summaries by categories. They represent the total spending of the departments plus the full allocation of employee benefits and debt service attributable to each. In the case of the Schools, the amounts below represent only the Town's contribution. The Schools also receive state and federal grants as well as other monies. In the case of Information Systems and Technology (IS&T) spending, this was previously comprised of separate departments in General Government and the Schools. For FY14 the Town decided to centralize the IS&T

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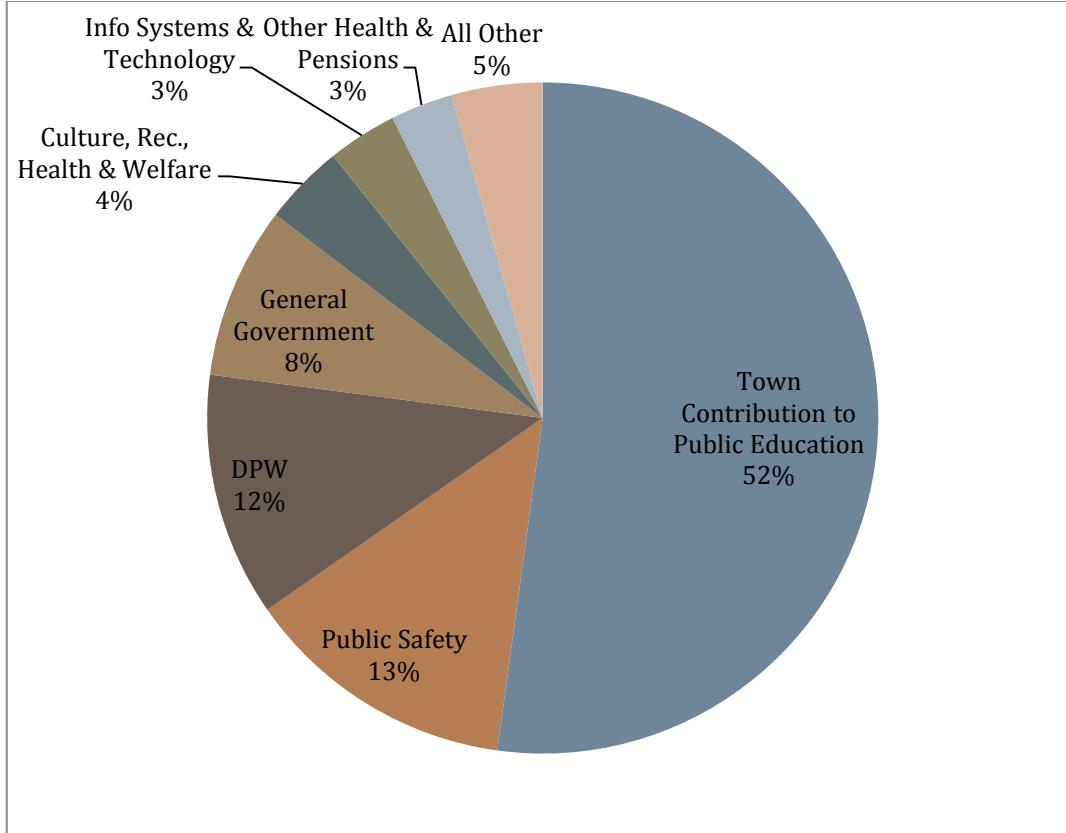
departments to have greater coordination and efficiency in this important function. The historical numbers below for FY13 and FY14 have been restated for comparability to transfer the spending from Schools to General Government department.

There are several items in the numbers below that should be noted:

1. The Finance Committee recommends that the Town's contribution to the Schools be \$275,000 more than what it otherwise would be. This will be a permanent increase in the level of base funding for the Schools. In FY14, the Town provided a one-time special funding of \$253,000 to cover extraordinary Special Education (SPED) expenses that year. This is not needed for FY15. See more about this in the Public Education paragraph below.
2. Information Systems' expenses will grow by \$241,707. Some of this increase reflects consolidation of spending for software, telephones and copiers from other operating departments to this department. In total, \$62,351 of spending has been reduced in various other departments and transferred to IS&T. Additionally, the town-wide capital projects authorized in FY14 will add \$128,000 in debt service to the department. Finally, there are two staff members who are now taking health insurance, adding additional departmental costs.
3. After negotiations with our health insurance carrier, they agreed to no increase in premiums for FY15. Other towns are experiencing increases of 5-7% this year and an increase of this magnitude would have amounted to an increase of approximately \$200,000 to \$280,000 annually. Clearly, if this type of increase were to occur next year, actions would need to be considered to reduce such an increase. The Town will consider moving to the GIC benefit levels allowed by state law. Managing this important cost area is complex as it involves 6 union contracts as well as non-union employees, all of whom share a common plan.

Total Operating Expenses			
	2013	2014	2015
Town Contribution to Public Education	\$ 12,503,104	\$ 13,195,463	\$ 13,504,241
Public Safety	\$ 3,119,335	\$ 3,347,363	\$ 3,405,816
DPW	\$ 3,125,622	\$ 3,030,293	\$ 3,041,233
General Government	\$ 2,026,151	\$ 2,174,933	\$ 2,144,554
Culture, Rec., Health & Welfare	\$ 967,160	\$ 998,309	\$ 1,014,022
Info Systems & Technology	\$ 659,690	\$ 625,711	\$ 867,417
Other Health & Pensions	\$ 636,400	\$ 739,924	\$ 779,601
All Other	\$ 1,145,061	\$ 1,129,580	\$ 1,132,273
Total Budget - Article 5	\$ 24,182,522	\$ 25,241,576	\$ 25,889,157

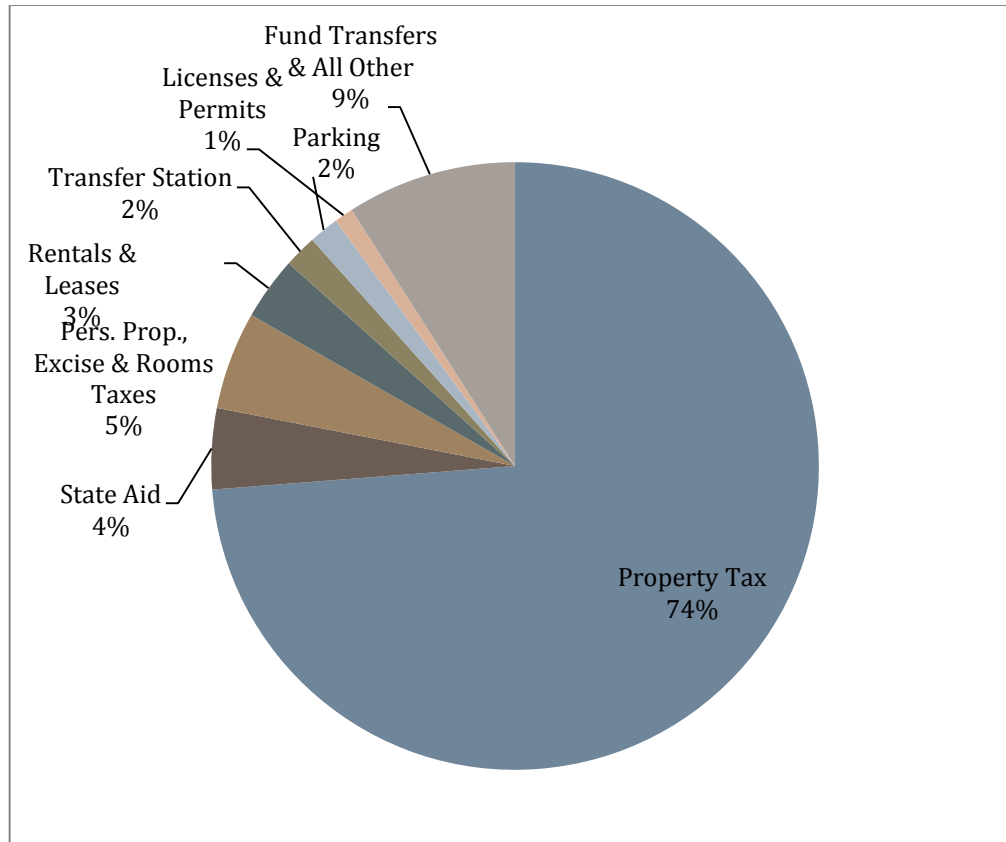
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State law requires that the budgets of cities and towns in the Commonwealth be balanced. Revenue sources must be equal to or greater than budgeted spending. The table below shows revenues that are generated locally by the Town or aid that is provided by the state to offset some of the costs. These revenues contribute to decreasing the costs the Town is required to raise from property taxes.

	Revenues		
	2013	2014	2015
Property Tax	\$ 18,640,816	\$ 18,963,509	\$ 19,693,859
State Aid	\$ 1,203,936	\$ 1,150,094	\$ 1,148,728
Pers. Prop., Excise & Rooms Taxes	\$ 1,354,268	\$ 1,321,500	\$ 1,391,500
Rentals & Leases	\$ 598,307	\$ 689,829	\$ 894,670
Transfer Station	\$ 378,730	\$ 426,925	\$ 463,900
Parking	\$ 368,449	\$ 337,474	\$ 424,666
Licenses & Permits	\$ 257,732	\$ 226,700	\$ 268,350
Fund Transfers & All Other	\$ 2,478,369	\$ 2,235,234	\$ 2,413,790
Total Non-Tax Revenue & State Aid	\$ 6,639,791	\$ 6,387,756	\$ 7,005,604
Total Revenue	\$ 25,280,607	\$ 25,351,265	\$ 26,699,463

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There are several items in the revenue figures above that should be noted:

1. There are three components of the increase in Property Tax revenue. One is the increase in taxes on existing housing stock, which is limited to 2.5%. Secondly, the tax levy may be raised by overrides or debt exclusions. Third, there are taxes based on "New Growth" which is the additional assessed value of new or renovated properties.
2. Parking Revenue, consisting of meter and parking sticker revenues plus parking fines, shows a large increase, reflecting the increased meter rates recently implemented and supported by the new meters. The Police Department studied the results of the pilot test of new electronic meters in 2012 and concluded that the credit card feature resulted in considerably more revenue per meter than the old ones. Over 100 of these new meters will be in place in the future and we forecast that they will result in increased revenue.
3. Rentals and Leases consist primarily of Long Beach and cell tower leases. The Town owns the land under the cottages on Long Beach. The Selectmen recently decided on new 10-year leases. This means that rental revenue will increase about \$150,000 per year over that period.

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

4. Some examples of Fund Transfers & All Other are expense reimbursements from the Enterprise Funds, Ambulance Revenues and Mooring Fees.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Finance Committee recommends that \$10,452,560 be authorized in Article 5 for support to the Schools' operating budget. In addition, \$178,596 is recommended for tuition payments to Rockport students attending the North Shore Vocational Technical Schools. Additional costs generated by the school system, but included in other sections of the Table of Estimates include Debt Service and Pensions & Benefits shown at the end of the Article 5 Table of Estimates. They are shown as expenses of the Town. Here we will analyze the total school operations including all expenses and sources of revenue. The total school expenses proposed for this year are \$15,689,374. The Town provides a large portion of this, but there are several other sources of funding that are very important. In summary, the funding sources are:

- a. Town contributions of \$13,930,061, of which \$1,311,376 is expected to be reimbursed by the state and federal government, making the taxpayer contribution be \$12,618,685.
- b. Independent revenue of \$1,820,768 is not sourced from the Town taxpayers. Most of this revenue comes from School Choice, Fees, State and Federal Grants. See below for more detail.

Under state law, the School Committee has control of the entire budget after the Town contributions are voted by Town Meeting. To assist the voters of Town Meeting to better understand the financial situation of the schools, we are providing the following analysis. This analysis itemizes all expenses and sources of revenue regardless of who controls them. In the current year, FY14, the Schools are responsible for educating 1012 students, 802 of whom are Rockport residents.

Expenses: Listed below are all expenses associated with educating the students of Rockport and School Choice students. When reading these items, please refer to the table below.

1. Most of the day-to-day expenses are comprised of Labor and Operating Expense. These categories also include the expenses of educating SPED students who remain in our schools.
2. Some SPED students need more specialized instruction than can be provided by our school system. These expenses are designated as SPED Outside Services.
3. As in other Town departments, the annual cost of debt service for school-related borrowing is allocated to the Schools. This also applies to Pension & Benefit expenses of current and retired employees.

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

4. Some Rockport students attend North Shore Vocational Tech and Essex County Technical Institute. The expenses for these Rockport students are shown in the chart below as a school expense paid by the Town.

Sources of Revenue: As mentioned above, not all of these expenses are paid by the Town's taxpayers. We have identified two types of revenue below.

1. Town Contributions:

- a. The amount of \$10,727,560 will be voted for appropriation for the School Department this year.
- b. The Town will pay the debt service and pensions & benefits of the whole town, regardless of where they are generated. The amounts of these payments which pertain to the school are expected to total \$2,598,085.
- c. The Town will pay \$425,820 to the state directly for retired teacher health insurance that it will provide in FY15.
- d. The Town will pay \$178,596 for tuition at North Shore Vocational Tech, and Essex County Technical Institute.
- e. This year Town Meeting is being asked to approve \$65,000 from Free Cash to fund certain capital outlays in Article 6.

2. Independent Revenue:

- a. School Choice Receiving – The Rockport School Committee agrees to a certain number of openings in each class that are available for Choice students. The Schools receive a little over \$5,000 per student from the sending school system when their students opt to go to the Rockport schools.
- b. The State reimburses Rockport for a percentage of the most extraordinary individual SPED expenses it incurs above a threshold amount (Circuit Breaker).
- c. The Schools receive a number of grants which offset some of the costs of delivering specific education programs and initiatives.
- d. The Schools receive fees for athletics and transportation.
- e. The School Committee can use reserves to cover additional expenses. They estimate that the reserve balances will be \$510,000 at the end of FY14.

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

Rockport Public Education			
Expenses	FY13	FY14	FY15
Labor	\$ 9,356,755	\$ 9,650,211	\$ 9,955,131
Operating Expense	\$ 853,294	\$ 870,580	\$ 817,826
SPED Outside Services	\$ 1,384,687	\$ 1,875,188	\$ 1,713,916
Needed to Operate - Direct Expenses	\$ 11,594,736	\$ 12,395,979	\$ 12,486,873
Other School Expenses Paid by Town:			
Debt Service (700)	\$ 274,075	\$ 168,575	\$ 215,884
Pensions & Benefits (900)	\$ 2,304,519	\$ 2,379,633	\$ 2,382,201
North Shore/Essex Voc. Tech.	\$ 143,838	\$ 162,217	\$ 178,596
Retired Teacher Health Insurance	\$ 284,947	\$ 352,998	\$ 425,820
Total Other Expenses	\$ 3,007,379	\$ 3,063,423	\$ 3,202,501
Total School Expense	\$14,602,115	\$15,459,402	\$15,689,374
Revenue			
Town Contributions:			
Base Funding - ATM Appropriation	\$ 9,780,672	\$ 10,232,038	\$ 10,727,560
One-Time SPED Expense Contribution		\$ 253,000	
Debt Service (700)	\$ 274,075	\$ 168,575	\$ 215,884
Pensions & Benefits (900)	\$ 2,304,519	\$ 2,379,633	\$ 2,382,201
Retired Teacher Health Insurance	\$ 284,947	\$ 352,998	\$ 425,820
North Shore/Essex Voc. Tech.	\$ 143,838	\$ 162,217	\$ 178,596
Total Town Contributions	\$ 12,788,051	\$ 13,548,461	\$ 13,930,061
Independent Revenue:			
School Choice	\$ 924,927	\$ 1,155,000	\$ 1,150,768
Circuit Breaker	\$ 207,805	\$ 240,991	\$ 320,000
Grants	\$ 418,445	\$ 300,000	\$ 275,000
Fees	\$ 103,349	\$ 120,000	\$ 75,000
Total Independent Revenue	\$ 1,654,526	\$ 1,815,991	\$ 1,820,768
Total School Revenue	\$14,442,577	\$15,364,452	\$15,750,829
Note: The Town receives Chapter 70 from the State, and Medicaid payments from the Federal Government. It pays School Choice Sending.			
Total Town Contributions (from above)	\$ 12,788,051	\$ 13,548,461	\$ 13,930,061
Less Chapter 70 Reimbursement	\$ (1,304,118)	\$ (1,324,168)	\$ (1,377,981)
Less Medicaid Assistance - SPED	\$ (88,522)	\$ (60,000)	\$ (88,000)
School Choice Sending	\$ 102,676	\$ 164,069	\$ 154,605
Funded from Tax Levy	\$ 11,498,087	\$ 12,328,362	\$ 12,618,685

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

Members of the Finance Committee worked closely with the school department and members of the School Committee to come up with the following recommendations. Our objectives were to:

1. Adequately fund the needs of the schools;
2. Develop a plan for predictable increases in base funding for the schools; and
3. Provide for sudden and unexpected changes in needs for SPED spending.

Accordingly, the Finance Committee recommends that Town Meeting:

1. Approve a funding level change that is \$275,000 higher than the regular increase appropriated for the schools in the past, and
2. Approve Article K which establishes the SPED Stabilization Fund at the initial level of \$200,000. Most of this will come from Free Cash.

SPED Stabilization Fund: This is a stabilization fund that can be used only for changes in SPED Outside Services (a line item in the chart above), which are unexpected, uncontrollable increases in the budget. In future years, the School Department may request a withdrawal in the amount equal to the increased expense level over budget for that year. Alternatively, if actual expenses are lower than the budgeted SPED costs, the schools will request a deposit in the amount equal to the SPED savings into the account. Since this will be a stabilization fund under state law, all deposits and withdrawals would need a 2/3rds vote of Special Town Meeting in April, or Fall Town Meeting in September.

The expectation is that this fund will serve as a buffer against SPED costs that cannot be anticipated during the budgeting process. As a result, the School Committee will not request a Proposition 2 ½ override this year. The School Committee, Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen expect to work together on an ongoing basis to accomplish both objectives of adequately funding the schools while keeping increased costs to the taxpayers to a minimum.

ENTERPRISE FUND HIGHLIGHTS

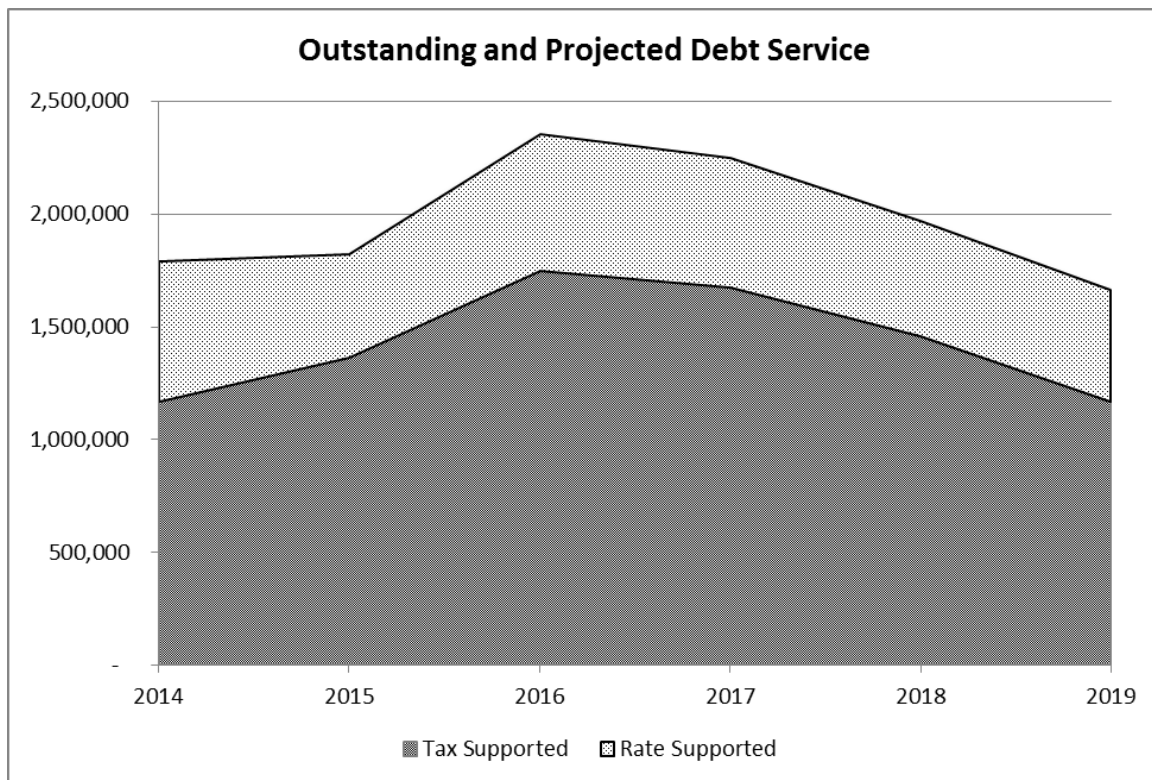
The Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds each operate separately from the Town's operating budget. These expenses are covered by water and sewer rates billed to the users, and thus do not affect the tax rate.

Enterprise Fund Budget Expenses			
	2013	2014	2015
Water Fund - Article 5A	\$ 1,498,587	\$ 1,562,939	\$ 1,649,200
Sewer Fund - Article 5B	\$ 2,122,678	\$ 1,918,832	\$ 1,801,596

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

CAPITAL OUTLAY EXPENDITURES (ARTICLE 6, 6A AND 6B)

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) receives requests for capital items from the operating departments and the enterprise funds. It meets with each department and then prioritizes the requests before making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. Once the Finance Committee decides what it wants to recommend it presents it to Town Meeting these articles to Town Meeting. Looking ahead, there are a number of large projects that will need to be addressed. These include Town building repairs, Old Harbor dredging, a pumper truck for the fire department, heavy equipment for the DPW, and numerous waterfront projects as they become necessary. The Town will need to control expenses, find additional non-tax revenue, borrow money, or increase taxes temporarily with an override to meet these needs. The Finance Committee recommends that future borrowing be kept to a minimum. The chart below shows that debt service in the next few years will increase merely by funding out existing temporary debt and by borrowings recommended at the ATM this year.



UNFUNDED PENSIONS AND BENEFITS & OTHER FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

There are two significant categories of unfunded liabilities that the town must eventually address. The longer we wait, the more difficult it becomes to deal with these:

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

1. **Retirement Fund.** The town is part of the Essex Regional Retirement System which includes 19 towns and several dozen regional schools and authorities. Its auditors have determined that the system is underfunded by \$323 million as of a year ago. Rockport's share is 5.26% or \$17 million, so we can expect that our payments will be increasing significantly over the next twenty years. These are funds set aside to fund future retirement payments to both active and retired employees. Retirement payments are important for Rockport's employees because municipal employees are not eligible to be part of the Social Security System, and will receive no payments from it. Rockport does not have control over the funding level or the investment policy of the ERRS. It does, however, have the ability to review the level of retirement benefits of our employees.
2. **Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB).** These are primarily health insurance benefits to retirees and their spouses. The annual cost of this set of benefits is included as part of the health insurance expense in the operating budget. As is the case with retirement benefits, these are obligations of the town, and will be paid on behalf of our retirees for many years into the future. The state will require that the expected future costs be included as a liability on the Town's balance sheet soon. This will make it a very serious issue for us to deal with. We do not have an organized plan for funding process for OPEB, although we are recommending a deposit of \$79,618 into the fund this year. As it stands today, these payments will increase as our retirees live longer and as health insurance premiums rise. This has the potential to grow significantly, and possibly reduce the town's ability to fund other expenses or require additional tax increases. Rockport must work to control the growth of health insurance, and as a result, OPEB.

STABILIZATION FUNDS

The town has two funds to help it cope with future uncertain needs.

1. Stabilization Fund - \$1,338,593
2. Capital Reserve Stabilization Fund - \$175,202

As discussed above, we are recommending a third stabilization fund and asking this Town Meeting to create it as a special SPED Stabilization Fund and fund it with \$200,000 this year.

REAL ESTATE TAXES

A description of how property taxes are derived can be found on page 4. For FY14, the total assessed value of Rockport's real estate was \$1,694,188,700. To raise the \$19,093,509 that was billed this year, the rate of \$11.27 was required. Therefore, a house assessed at \$500,000 would pay \$5,635.

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

FREE CASH

The Town has \$829,618 available Free Cash in the General Fund. Because this amount varies greatly from year to year, the Finance Committee supports using it for one-time capital expenditures, for one-time emergency payments and for building up our reserves rather than for funding on-going operating expenses. By using Free Cash for capital outlay, the Town is able to limit additional borrowing. The Finance Committee recommends using \$253,400 to finance Article 6 Capital Outlay items, \$120,000 to fund computer equipment under our five-year plan and and \$407,552 to support Special Articles in the 2014 STM & ATM Warrants. This \$407,552 includes the \$79,618 to be deposited into the OPEB Trust Fund and \$152,934 of the \$200,000 that will be deposited into the new SPED Stabilization Fund. The unspent balance of Free Cash will be \$48,666.

The Free Cash of the Enterprise Funds totals \$384,253 (\$67,951 Water & \$316,302 Sewer). The Finance Committee recommends using \$67,100 and \$307,100 respectively to finance Articles 6A (Water) & 6B (Sewer) Capital Outlay items.

BUDGET UNCERTAINTIES

State Aid revenues are estimates and reflect the Governor's proposals to date. Final State budgets are not adopted until after our Annual Town Meeting and adjustments to our budget will be made at the Fall Town Meeting.

By state statute and Town By-Law, the Finance Committee works directly for you the voters. We are charged with providing you with the best possible information so that you can make informed decisions. We hope you find it so.

The Finance Committee wishes to thank all the Town of Rockport's staff and volunteers for their diligence and patience throughout this year's budget process. Their dedication to the citizens of Rockport in maintaining and improving services is truly appreciated.

We also wish to thank all those who contributed directly to the preparation of this document.

Wally Hess, Chairman

Laurene Wessel, Vice Chair

Frank Hassler

Michael Hughes

June Michaels

Michael Lamoureux

William Wagner

Carl Engel

David Coyne

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

Special Town Meeting – April 5, 2014

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

TOWN of ROCKPORT

WARRANT for

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, April 5, 2014

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

To: One of the Constables of the Town of Rockport, Massachusetts in said County of Essex in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GREETINGS: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet and assemble at the Rockport High School at 24 Jerden's Lane in said Rockport on Saturday, the fifth day of April, 2014 A.D., at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

- ARTICLE A. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds sums of money to be expended by various Town Departments to balance the FY14 budget; or act on anything relative thereto.
- ARTICLE B. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay unpaid bills and payroll of previous years; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant) (requires 9/10 vote)*
- ARTICLE C. To see if the Town will vote to close the Cemetery Water Lines Replacement Capital Improvements account and appropriate by transfer the remaining unexpended funds to the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant)*
- ARTICLE D. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken on Article 6 at the April 6, 2002 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$30,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Standpipe Painting Capital account, Article 6A at the April 4, 2009 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$250,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Standpipe Painting Capital account, and Article 6A at the April 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$250,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Water Tank Additional Funds Capital account, all for the payment of the costs of painting the Pigeon Hill standpipe to, instead, pay for the costs of replacing the Pigeon Hill standpipe, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and appropriate such amount to a Tank Replacement Engineering & Construction capital account; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

- ARTICLE E. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer the unexpended funds from Article F of the September 14, 2009 Fall Town Meeting Purchase of Video Camera Capital account to the Infiltration/Inflows Special Revenue account; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*
- ARTICLE F. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the unexpended money as were initially borrowed to finance capital projects that are now complete, and for which no further liability remains, of \$5,740.91 from the Odor Control Headworks capital account and the unexpended balance of \$1,474.97 from the Grit Removal capital account, both balances combined to total \$7,215.88 from Article 6B of the April 3, 2010 Annual Town Meeting, to the Dock Square Pump Station Odor Control Capital account established from Article 6B of the April 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting to pay costs of the Dock Square Pump Station Odor Control project, as permitted by Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*
- ARTICLE G. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article J of the September 11, 2006 Fall Town Meeting which appropriated funds for DPW Site Engineer/Architect to also include DPW facility design and construction; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*
- ARTICLE H. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant utility and access easements to National Grid and/or other utility providers for the placement and maintenance of power poles for the Bedrock Well power lines on portions of the Town-owned property located at 0 Main Street, 0 Pleasant Street, and 1-4 DPW Way and shown on Assessors Map 19 as Lots 49 and 91, and Map 13 as Lot 1; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*
- ARTICLE I. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$150,000 to a capital account to pay for the construction of the Bedrock Well Power Project, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*
- ARTICLE J. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$780,000 to a capital account to pay for the costs of storm damage repairs to the Pigeon Cove Seawall, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*
- ARTICLE K. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$1,660,000 to pay the costs of mitigation work on the Pigeon Cove Seawall including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*
- ARTICLE L. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$150,000 to pay the costs of storm damage repairs to the Granite Pier Revetment, including the payment of all costs incidental or related

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*

ARTICLE M. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of \$112,500.25 to cover the FEMA deficit from the Granite Pier Revetment project; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant)*

ARTICLE N. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of \$8,338.71 to cover the FEMA deficit from the Granite Pier Tip project; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant)*

ARTICLE O. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$87,000 to pay the costs of storm damage repairs and mitigation to the Back Beach Seawall, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*

ARTICLE P. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an access and sewer easement to George Ramsden in, on and under Town-owned property shown on Assessors Map 13 as Lot 1 and approximately shown on an easement plan entitled "176 Main Street, Plan of Proposed Sewer and Access Easement" dated February 14, 2014, which plan is on file with the Town Clerk; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies of the same at each of the Post Offices, and in other public places in each village of the Town, fourteen days at least before the day of the holding of said SPECIAL TOWN MEETING.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, three days at least before Saturday, April 5, 2014.

Given under our hands and seal of the Town this 11th day of March 2014, A.D.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF ROCKPORT

Erin M. Battistelli, Chairwoman
Paul F. Murphy, Vice Chairman
Sarah J. Wilkinson
Wilhelmina Sheedy Moores
Eliza N. Lucas

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

STM ARTICLES, MOTIONS, SUMMARIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

ARTICLE A

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds sums of money to be expended by various Town Departments to balance the FY14 budget; or act on anything relative thereto.

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from the appropriations under Article 5 of the warrant for the April 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting such sums of money as are set forth below to be added to the respective appropriations, as specified:

Amount	Transfer To	Article 5 Item Account #	Transfer From	Article 5 Item Account #
\$ 96,935.00	Snow & Ice Exp	01-406-0046-05292	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172
\$ 506.00	Publ Transport	01-212-0170-05279	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172
\$ 3,000.00	Rights of Way	01-173-0110-05786	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172
\$ 3,000.00	Animal Ctrl Svcs	01-292-0110-05200	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172
\$ 18,870.00	Bullet Proof Vests	<i>New Account Number</i>	Civilian Dispatcher Wgs	01-210-0067-05119
\$ 44,000.00	Millpond Dam	01-753-0143-05920	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172
\$ 86,000.00	Temp Principal		<i>To Be Determined</i>	
\$ 12,000.00	Acctng Services	01-135-0110-05200	Accnt Supt Spec Wages	01-135-0061-05116
\$ 1,400.00	Property Ins	01-940-0146-05742	T/C Postage Expenses	01-147-0173-05310
\$ 5,472.81	Police Off Wages	01-210-0025-05112	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172
\$ 22,000.00			Accnt Supt Spec Wages	01-135-0061-05116
\$ 1,000.00	Police Chief Sal	01-210-0020-05112	T/C Oper Asst Wages	01-147-0041-05115
\$ 605.00			T/C Rental/Lease Exp	01-147-0113-05270
\$ 614.94	PD Office Mgr Sal	01-210-0040-05115	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172
\$ 2.00	Ambulance Dir	01-231-0020-05113	T/C Postage Expenses	01-147-0173-05310
\$ 55.80	Ambulance EMTs	01-231-0026-05122	T/C Postage Expenses	01-147-0173-05310
\$ 1,910.45	Parking Clerk	01-293-0020-05113	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172
\$ 25.00	Pkg Hearing Off	01-293-0019-05194	T/C Postage Expenses	01-147-0173-05310
\$ 41,168.00	Snow & Ice OT	01-404-0081-05130	Group Health Insurance	01-914-0096-05172

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This is a simple administrative action that requests Town Meeting to approval the transfer of money between Town departments that will balance the operating budget by moving funds from accounts that don't need them to accounts that do.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article A.

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE B

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay unpaid bills and payroll of previous years; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant) (requires 9/10 vote)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate by transfer from the Group Health Insurance account the sum of \$360.53 to pay an invoice to School Specialty and the sum of \$175.00 to pay an invoice to Rooter Jack, both bills from the previous fiscal year as well as the sum of \$2,642.38 to pay stipend shortfalls for two DPW Commissioners from the previous fiscal year. *(requires 9/10 vote)*

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve paying two bills that were received after the close of the fiscal year and two stipends from the previous fiscal year that were missed in the final payroll.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article B.

ARTICLE C

To see if the Town will vote to close the Cemetery Water Lines Replacement Capital Improvements account and appropriate by transfer the remaining unexpended funds to the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant)*

MOTION

I move that the Town close the Cemetery Water Lines Replacement Capital Improvements account and appropriate by transfer the remaining unexpended funds of \$10,000 to the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to return unexpended funds to the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund for future cemetery maintenance work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article C.

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE D

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken on Article 6 at the April 6, 2002 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$30,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Standpipe Painting Capital account, Article 6A at the April 4, 2009 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$250,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Standpipe Painting Capital account, and Article 6A at the April 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$250,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Water Tank Additional Funds Capital account, all for the payment of the costs of painting the Pigeon Hill standpipe to, instead, pay for the costs of replacing the Pigeon Hill standpipe, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and appropriate such amount to a Tank Replacement Engineering & Construction capital account; or act on anything relative thereto. (Department of Public Works)

MOTION

I move that the Town amend the vote taken on Article 6 at the April 6, 2002 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$30,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Standpipe Painting Capital account, Article 6A at the April 4, 2009 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$250,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Standpipe Painting Capital account, and Article 6A at the April 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated \$250,000 by borrowing to the Pigeon Hill Water Tank Additional Funds Capital account, all for the payment of the costs of painting the Pigeon Hill standpipe to, instead, pay for the costs of replacing the Pigeon Hill standpipe, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and appropriate such amount to a Tank Replacement Engineering & Construction capital account.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to modify the purpose of the three stated votes taken to appropriate funds to paint the Pigeon Hill Standpipe to instead of painting allow for the replacement of the standpipe which has become advisable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article D.

ARTICLE E

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer the unexpended funds from Article F of the September 14, 2009 Fall Town Meeting Purchase of Video Camera Capital account to the Infiltration/Inflows Special Revenue account; or act on anything relative thereto. (Department of Public Works)

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer the unexpended sum of \$8,706.41 from Article F of the September 14, 2009 Fall Town Meeting Purchase of Video Camera Capital account to the Infiltration/Inflows account.

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article returns unexpended funds from the specific purchase of a video camera used to inspect the underground sewer pipes, to the more general use of sewer infiltration and inflow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article E.

ARTICLE F

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the unexpended money as were initially borrowed to finance capital projects that are now complete, and for which no further liability remains, of \$5,740.91 from the Odor Control Headworks capital account and the unexpended balance of \$1,474.97 from the Grit Removal capital account, both balances combined to total \$7,215.88 from Article 6B of the April 3, 2010 Annual Town Meeting, to the Dock Square Pump Station Odor Control Capital account established from Article 6B of the April 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting to pay costs of the Dock Square Pump Station Odor Control project, as permitted by Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer the unexpended balance of \$5,740.91 from the Odor Control Headworks capital account and the unexpended balance of \$1,474.97 from the Grit Removal capital account for a total of \$7,215.88, both approved under Article 6B of the April 3, 2010 Annual Town Meeting and initially borrowed to finance capital projects that are now complete, and for which no further liability remains, to the Dock Square Pump Station Odor Control Capital account established from Article 6B of the April 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting for the purposes of Article F as set forth in the warrant and printed on page 22 of the 2014 Town Meeting Voters Booklet.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to allow the unexpended funds from the two completed sewer projects to be applied specifically to the sewer Dock Square Pump Station Odor Control project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article F.

ARTICLE G

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article J of the September 11,

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

2006 Fall Town Meeting which appropriated funds for DPW Site Engineer/Architect to also include DPW facility design and construction; or act on anything relative thereto.

(Department of Public Works)

MOTION

I move that the Town amend the vote taken under Article J of the September 11, 2006 Fall Town Meeting which appropriated funds for the DPW Site Engineer/Architect, to also include DPW facility design and construction.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to allow the funds appropriated for DPW site engineering to include design and construction work as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article G.

ARTICLE H

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant utility and access easements to National Grid and/or other utility providers for the placement and maintenance of power poles for the Bedrock Well power lines on portions of the Town-owned property located at 0 Main Street, 0 Pleasant Street, and 1-4 DPW Way and shown on Assessors Map 19 as Lots 49 and 91, and Map 13 as Lot 1; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*

MOTION

I move that the Town transfer the care, custody and control of the parcels of land described below from the board or officer having custody thereof to said board or officer for such purposes and to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of granting easements thereon, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant utility and access easements to National Grid and/or other utility providers for the placement and maintenance of power poles for the Bedrock Well power lines on portions of the Town-owned property located at 0 Main Street, 0 Pleasant Street, and 1-4 DPW Way and shown on Assessors Map 19 as Lots 49 and 91, and Map 13 as Lot 1. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

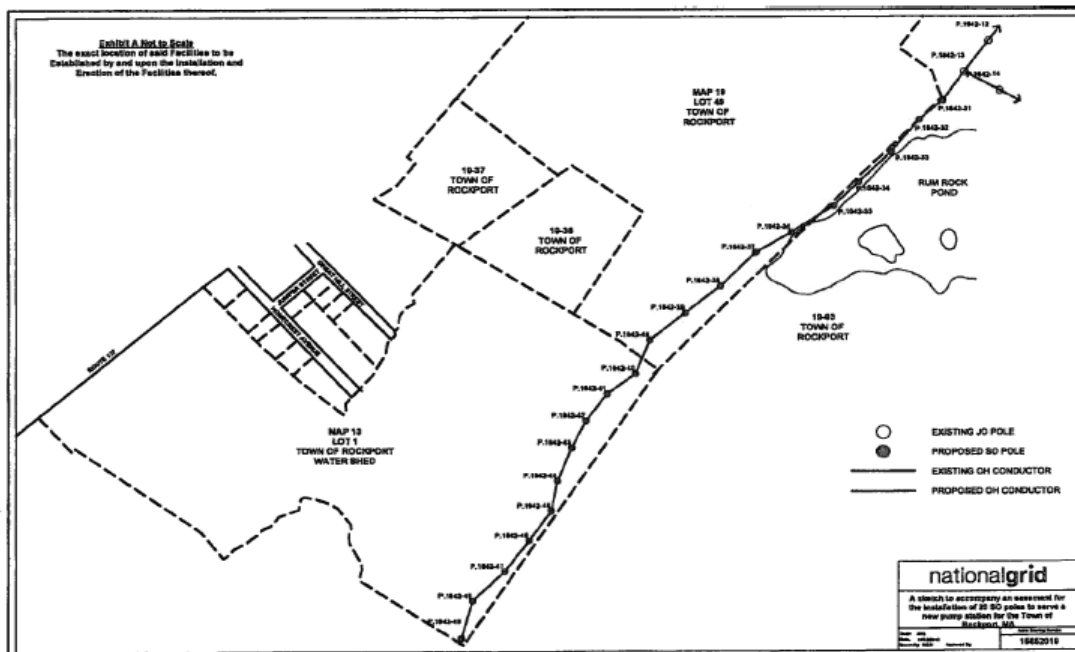
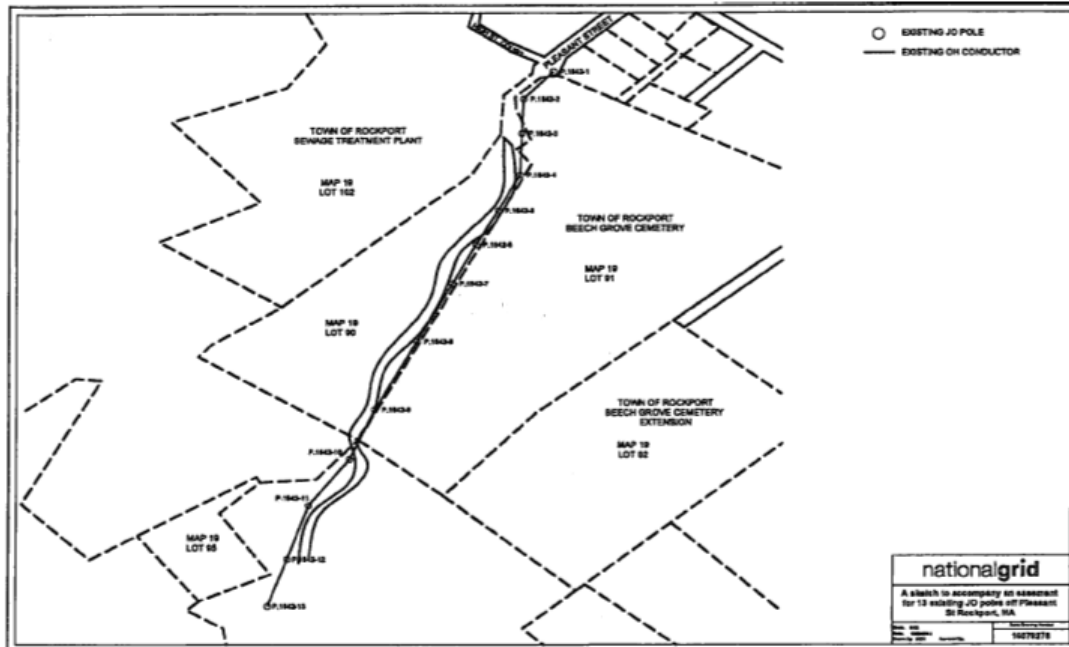
This article asks Town Meeting to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant a utility and access easement to National Grid and other utility providers in order to supply power to the Bedrock Wells.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommend approval of Article H.

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

Proposed Power Pole Locations for the Bedrock Well Power Lines



TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE I

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$150,000 to a capital account to pay for the construction of the Bedrock Well Power Project, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*

MOTION

I move that the Town borrow the sum of \$150,000 and appropriate said sum to a Bedrock Well Power capital account for the purposes set forth in Article I in the warrant, and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefor under the provisions of G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these purchases. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve \$150,000 to construct an electric line to the Bedrock Wells. The original plan included a diesel powered generator, however, environmental concerns make running an electric line a better option in the long run, although the initial cost is higher. It is included in the Special Town Meeting so that the work can be started at once.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article I.

ARTICLE J

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$780,000 to a capital account to pay for the costs of storm damage repairs to the Pigeon Cove Seawall, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*

MOTION

I move that the Town borrow the sum of \$780,000 and appropriate said sum to a Pigeon Cove Seawall Repairs capital account and for the purpose set forth in Article K in the warrant, and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefor under the provisions of G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these purchases. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article ask the Town to vote to borrow \$780,000 to pay for storm damage repairs to the Pigeon Cove Seawall. If this repair is postponed the Town risks losing FEMA reimbursement of 75%.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article J.

ARTICLE K

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$1,660,000 to pay the costs of mitigation work on the Pigeon Cove Seawall including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*

MOTION

I move that the Town borrow the sum of \$1,660,000 and appropriate said sum to a Pigeon Cove Mitigation capital account and for the purpose set forth in Article K in the warrant, and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefor under the provisions of G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these purchases. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks the Town to borrow \$1,660,000 for mitigation work on the Pigeon Cove Seawall. This project should not be delayed in order to avoid the risk of losing the 75% reimbursement from FEMA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article K.

ARTICLE L

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$150,000 to pay the costs of storm damage repairs to the Granite Pier Revetment, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

MOTION

I move that the Town borrow the sum of \$150,000 and appropriate said sum to a Granite Pier Revetment Repairs capital account and for the purpose set forth in Article L in the warrant, and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefor under the provisions of G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these purchases. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to borrow \$150,000 to make repairs to the storm damaged revetment at Granite Pier.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article L.

ARTICLE M

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of \$112,500.25 to cover the FEMA deficit from the Granite Pier Revetment project; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate by transfer the sum of \$112,500.25 from the Group Health Insurance account to cover an FY2014 deficit balance in the account due to lack of anticipated FEMA reimbursement for the Granite Pier Revetment project.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

The reimbursement from FEMA for the Granite Pier revetment was less than the Town had budgeted. This article requests Town Meeting to approve the transfers from Group Health Insurance and from three capital projects which are being deferred until the Master Building Plan has been updated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article M.

ARTICLE N

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of \$8,338.71 to cover the FEMA deficit from the Granite Pier Tip project; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant)*

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate by transfer the sum of \$8,338.71 from the Group Health Insurance account to cover an FY2014 deficit balance in the account due to lack of anticipated FEMA reimbursement for the Granite Pier Tip project.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

The reimbursement from FEMA for repairs to the tip of Granite Pier was less than the Town had budgeted. This article requests Town Meeting to approve a transfer of funds from Group Health Insurance to cover the deficit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article N.

ARTICLE O

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$87,000 to pay the costs of storm damage repairs and mitigation to the Back Beach Seawall, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works) (requires 2/3 vote)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$87,000 to a Back Beach Seawall Repairs and Mitigation capital account and for the purpose set forth in Article O in the warrant.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to transfer \$87,000 from Free Cash to pay for Back Beach repairs and improvements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article O.

ARTICLE P

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an access and sewer easement to George Ramsden in, on and under Town-owned property shown on Assessors Map 13 as Lot 1 and approximately shown on an easement plan entitled "176 Main Street, Plan of Proposed Sewer and Access Easement" dated February 14, 2014, which plan is on file with the Town Clerk; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department*

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

of Public Works)

MOTION

I move that the Town transfer the care, custody and control of the parcel of land described below from the board or officer having custody thereof to said board or officer for such purposes and to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of granting an easement thereon, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an access and sewer easement to George Ramsden in, on and under Town-owned property shown on Assessors Map 13 as Lot 1 and approximately shown on an easement plan entitled "176 Main Street, Plan of Proposed Sewer and Access Easement" dated February 14, 2014, which plan is on file with the Town Clerk and can be found on page 34 of the Voters Booklet. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant a sewer and access easement over Town property to accommodate sewer service to the property at 176 Main Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen supports this article.



TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

Annual Town Meeting – April 5, 2014

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

TOWN of ROCKPORT
WARRANT for
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, April 5, 2014
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Essex, ss. To: One of the Constables of the Town of Rockport, Massachusetts in
said County of Essex in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GREETINGS: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet and assemble at the Rockport High School at 24 Jerden's Lane in said Rockport on Saturday, the fifth day of April, 2014 A.D., at 9:30 o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

- ARTICLE 1. To choose an agent for the various trust funds of the Town and to choose all other necessary Town Officers in such a manner as the Town may direct; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*
- ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to rescind any one or more of the authorizations previously given to borrow funds for municipal purposes, excluding always, any and all authorizations that have been executed by a borrowing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Treasurer)*
- ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous years; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant) (requires 4/5 vote)*
- ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to amend or revise certain compensation schedules as set forth by the Rockport Personnel Board and on file in the Town Clerk's Office, which are incorporated herein by reference, namely:
- A. Compensation Schedules A through E and I for salaried employees; and
 - B. Compensation Schedule F for elected officials;
- ;or act on anything relative thereto. *(Personnel Board)*
- ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any or all Town expenses and purposes, including, without limiting

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the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's departments and offices, and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

5A. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any and all Town expenses and purposes including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's Water Enterprise and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

5B. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any and all Town expenses and purposes including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's Sewer Enterprise and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items, such sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

6A. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items for the Water Enterprise, sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

6B. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items for the Sewer Enterprise, sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

ARTICLES: *Lottery System*

ARTICLE A. To see if the Town will vote to expend a sum of money allocated to the Town under the provisions of Section 34(2)(a) of M.G.L. c.90, so-called "Chapter 90 monies"; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*

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- ARTICLE B. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds \$3,000 or any other sum, for Action, Inc.; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*
- ARTICLE C. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC); or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*
- ARTICLE D. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for SeniorCare, Inc.; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*
- ARTICLE E. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for The Open Door; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*
- ARTICLE F. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to pay for state mandated real and personal property revaluations; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Assessors)*
- ARTICLE G. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to the General Stabilization fund to pay for future expenditures; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (requires 2/3 vote)*
- ARTICLE H. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to the Capital Reserve Stabilization fund to pay for future capital expenditures; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (requires 2/3 vote)*
- ARTICLE I. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum money to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund created under Article N of the April 3, 2010 Annual Town Meeting to cover future benefit obligations to retired employees; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*
- ARTICLE J. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$120,000 to the Capital Technology account to pay for computers, networks, communications, and other technology tools and devices; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Information Systems and Technologies)*
- ARTICLE K. To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Section 5B of G.L. c.40 to create a special purpose stabilization fund for use by the School Committee for special education-related expenses, and for such purposes, to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds sums of money into said special purpose stabilization fund; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (requires 2/3 vote)*
- ARTICLE L. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate additional sums of money for

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any or all Rockport Public School expenses and purposes, including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Schools' departments and offices, and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, provided, however, that all additional appropriations authorized under this article be contingent upon voters' approval of a so-called Proposition 2½ override exclusion, as provided in G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C; or act on anything relative thereto. *(School Committee)*

ARTICLE M. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation exempting the position of Police Chief from the Civil Service Law, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general objectives of the petition.

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE POSITION OF POLICE CHIEF OF THE TOWN OF ROCKPORT FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the position of police chief of the Town of Rockport, shall be exempt from chapter 31 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. Section 1 shall not impair the civil service status of any persons serving in the position of police chief in the town of Rockport on the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (majority vote)*

ARTICLE N. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to or any lesser interest, including, without limitation, a lease with a term of thirty (30) years, in the below described parcel of land located on Straitsmouth Island and shown on Assessors Map 29 as Lots 1 and 2, off the coast of Rockport, Essex County, Massachusetts and/or the improvements thereon, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said thirty (30) year lease agreement for a nominal fee for occupation of the two historic structures on Straitsmouth Island known as the Keeper's House and the Oil House and the land thereunder and other property rights appurtenant thereto as to provide access to said structures, and to execute such other documents and take such other action as it deems to be in the best interest of the Town for the purpose of preserving, maintaining, and accessing said historic and the separate lighthouse parcel on said island owned by the Town of Rockport; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Committee)*

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ARTICLE O. To see if the Town will vote to amend its vote taken under Article F, fifth, of the September 9, 2013 Fall Town Meeting, appropriating Community Preservation Act funds in the amount of \$25,000 as a grant to the Thacher Island Association for the restoration and preservation of the Straitsmouth Island Lighthouse, to further provide that such funds may be used for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the other two historic structures on Straitsmouth Island, known as the Straitsmouth Island Keeper's House and the Oil House, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Community Preservation Committee)*

ARTICLE P. To see if the Town will vote to transfer care, custody and control of the parcels listed below from the tax custodian for the purpose of sale at public auction to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of said properties on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate and to execute such documents and take such other action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote; said properties being identified as follows:

Address of 33 Atlantic Avenue as shown on Assessors Map 22, Lot 140

Address of 59 High Street as shown on Assessors Map 18, Lot 26

Address of 8 Marmion Way as shown on Assessors Map 26, Lot 109

; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*

ARTICLE Q. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VIII of the Zoning By-Laws, "Coastal Flood Plain", by deleting the first paragraph of Section VIII Coastal Flood Plain District, Section B.1 and inserting in place thereof with the following:

"The Coastal Flood Plain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Rockport designated as Zone AE, AO, or VE on the Essex County Flood Insurance Rate Map ("FIRM" or "Map") issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The map panels of the Essex County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Rockport are panel numbers 25009C0309G, 25009C0317G, 25009C0319G, 25009C0328G, 25009C0336G, 25009C0337G, 25009C0338G, 25009C0339G, 25009C0476G and 25009C0500G dated July 16, 2014. The exact boundaries of the District are defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Essex County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated July

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16, 2014. The FIRM and Flood Insurance Study report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, Building Inspector and Conservation Commission.”

; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Planning Board) (requires 2/3 vote)*

ARTICLE R. To see if the Town will vote to retain ‘SWAPSHOP’ and ‘BOOKBARN’ facilities items for personal use for Rockport residents, and re-open the ‘METAL PILE’ to residents seeking items for personal use; or act on anything relative thereto. *(By Petition)*

ARTICLE S. To see if the Town will hear, receive and act upon the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Town Water Supply appointed pursuant to the vote of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article 6 and extended by votes of successive Annual Town Meetings through and including the 2013 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article W, and extend the term of the Committee; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Moderator)*

ARTICLE T. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of its officers, boards, departments, committees and commissions, as printed in the 2013 Annual Town Report or as otherwise submitted to Town Meeting; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Moderator)*

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies of the same at each of the Post Offices, and in other public places in each village of the Town, seven days at least before the day of the holding of said ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, three days at least before Saturday, April 5, 2014.

Given under our hands and seal of the Town this 11th day of March 2014, A.D.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF ROCKPORT

Erin M. Battistelli, Chairwoman
Paul F. Murphy, Vice Chairman
Sarah J. Wilkinson
Wilhelmina Sheedy Moores
Eliza N. Lucas

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ATM ARTICLES, MOTIONS, SUMMARIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

ARTICLE 1

To choose an agent for the various trust funds of the Town and to choose all other necessary Town Officers in such a manner as the Town may direct; or act on anything relative thereto.

MOTION

I move that the Town designate the Treasurer to be the agent for the various trust funds for the Town.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This is a standard article to obtain Town Meeting approval for various appointments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen supports this article.

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to rescind any one or more of the authorizations previously given to borrow funds for municipal purposes, excluding always, any and all authorizations that have been executed by a borrowing; or act on anything relative thereto.

MOTION

No Motion.

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous years; or act on anything relative thereto. *(requires 4/5 vote)*

MOTION

No motion.

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to amend or revise certain compensation schedules as set forth by the Rockport Personnel Board and on file in the Town Clerk's Office, which are incorporated herein by reference, namely:

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- A. Compensation Schedules A through E and I for salaried employees; and**
- B. Compensation Schedule F for elected officials.**

;or act on anything relative thereto. (*Personnel Board*)

MOTION

First Motion: I move that the Town amend Compensation Schedules A through E and the Compensation Schedule I for salaried employees, as set forth in the proposals recommended by the Rockport Personnel Board and on file in the Town Clerk's Office, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Second Motion: I move that the Town amend Compensation Schedule F for Elected Officials, as set forth in the proposals recommended by the Rockport Personnel Board and on file in the Town Clerk's Office, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve the FY15 compensation rates for non-union positions as recommended by the Personnel Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen recommend approval of this article.

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any or all Town expenses and purposes, including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's departments and offices, and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Finance Committee*)

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$25,889,157 for all items under the FY15 FinCom Recommendation column in the Table of Estimates under Article 5, as printed in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet on pages 44 through 50, all for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive, and as funding therefor, raise \$24,403,036 and transfer the following sums from the designated accounts for the purposes specified, namely,

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\$ 16 from Cemetery Perpetual Care to 402 DPW Cemetery
\$104,475 from Ambulance Reserve to 231 Ambulance
\$ 53,879 from Parking Meter Fund to 212 Traffic and Parking
\$ 46,127 from Parking Meter Fund to 293 Parking Clerk
\$150,000 from Waterways Improvement Fund to 295 Harbormasters
\$168,666 from Free Cash to 131 Reserve Fund
\$116,156 from CPA Fund to 700 Debt and Interest
\$455,531 from Water Enterprise Fund to Shared Costs
\$391,271 from Sewer Enterprise Fund to Shared Costs.

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ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
114	MODERATOR				
	Stipend	122	125	128	
	Operating Expense	113	113	114	
		235	238	242	
	Pension & Benefits	2	2	2	
		237	240	244	
122	SELECTMEN				
	Five Selectmen Stipends	7,191	7,191	7,191	
	Town Administrator	108,807	110,980	114,860	
	Assistant Town Administrator	55,000	60,000	61,200	
	Office Manager	42,021	42,651	43,504	
	Meeting Support Clerk	5,814	5,900	6,018	
	Operating Expense	30,216	30,895	35,054	FinCom printing expense
	Audit Services	36,000	53,000	36,000	One time audit in FY14
	Youth Center Operations	41,000	41,410	48,000	
		326,049	352,027	351,827	
	Pension & Benefits	91,501	122,828	140,629	
		417,550	474,855	492,456	
124	SELECTMEN COMMITTEES				
	Economic Development Committee Expenses	56,559	56,559	31,559	Reduce FY15 by \$25K
	Historical & Historic District Commission Expenses	152	152	500	
	Town Art Committee	2,000	2,000	2,000	
	Millbrook Meadow Committee	274	274	275	
	Rights of Way Committee	2,304	2,304	3,304	
	Beautification Committee	640	640	1,000	
		61,929	61,929	38,638	
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE				
	Operating Expense	5,885	5,883	1,100	FinCom printing transferred to BoS
	Reserve Fund, less transfers granted	277,654	303,500	303,500	
		283,539	309,383	304,600	
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT				
	Town Accountant	72,884	80,760	70,000	Beginning range for new hire
	Town Accountant Staff	89,914	93,699	95,573	
	Operating Expense	29,199	23,010	22,495	
		191,996	197,469	188,068	
	Pension & Benefits	63,074	70,986	68,071	
		255,071	268,455	256,139	
141	ASSESSORS				
	Assessors Stipends	3,183	3,231	3,296	
	Assistant Assessor	53,560	54,363	55,450	
	Assessor Clerk	33,204	33,297	33,960	
	Operating Expense	5,383	5,412	4,910	
	Outside services	12,110	12,110	1,660	Expenses transferred to IS&T
		107,440	108,413	99,276	
	Pension & Benefits	82,876	89,240	87,029	
		190,316	197,653	186,305	
147	TREASURER/COLLECTOR				
	Town Treasurer	69,587	71,050	72,471	
	Assistant Treasurer/Collector	45,142	45,820	46,736	
	Other Salaries/Wages	74,354	75,780	77,292	
	Operating Expense	38,472	42,340	41,349	
	Outside Services	29,470	29,530	29,598	
	Tax Title Fees	16,052	16,045	16,060	
		273,077	280,565	283,506	
	Pension & Benefits	80,710	94,508	96,131	
		353,788	375,073	379,637	
151	LEGAL - Fees & Expenses	113,022	114,149	116,433	

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
152	PERSONNEL BOARD				
	Clerical, Part Time	1,200	1,200	1,224	Reduced to level fund with FY14
	Merit Pay Pool	24,883	35,000	35,000	
	Operating Expense	180	380	380	
		26,263	36,580	36,604	
	Pension & Benefits	378	525	525	
		26,641	37,105	37,129	
154	INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY				
	Director Salary	80,580	87,000	88,740	Shared with Bd of Health
	IS&T Salaries & Wages	102,500	149,460	142,871	
	Shared Administrative Support Wages	-	-	4,862	
	Telephone	800	3,200	52,417	
	Copiers & other hardware	4,000	12,000	40,068	Copiers transferred from depts
	Classroom Hardware	56,100	56,100	56,661	
	Networking Services	103,346	85,900	45,000	
	Software Licenses & On-line services	93,030	100,830	125,823	
	Other Operating Expense	31,285	39,775	40,173	
		471,641	534,265	596,615	
	Debt Service	127,908	22,263	150,565	
	Pension & Benefits	60,141	69,183	120,237	
		659,690	625,711	867,417	
158	TAX POSSESSED LAND	9,500	8,870	8,959	
161	TOWN CLERK				
	Town Clerk	53,892	60,000	61,200	Phone/copier exp to IS&T
	Assistant Clerk	40,660	42,630	43,483	
	Operating Expense	11,638	9,469	7,834	
		106,190	112,099	112,517	
	Pension & Benefits	41,194	44,996	45,862	
		147,384	157,094	158,379	
164	ELECTIONS				
	Stipends & Election Officer Wages	2,640	2,679	20,660	Election officers to payroll
	Operating Expense	31,123	27,494	8,797	
		33,763	30,173	29,457	
	Pension & Benefits	38	39	300	
		33,801	30,212	29,757	
171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION				
	Conservation Agent	44,831	45,503	46,413	
	Clerical, Part Time	7,450	7,560	7,711	
	Operating Expense	2,310	2,330	2,103	
		54,591	55,393	56,227	
	Pension & Benefits	9,112	10,347	11,568	
		63,703	65,740	67,795	
175	PLANNING BOARD				
	Clerical, Part Time	16,935	18,549	18,920	New Consultant
	Planning Consultant	33,600	33,600	27,000	
	Operating Expense	2,862	2,887	2,959	
		53,397	55,036	48,879	
	Pension & Benefits	246	269	274	
		53,643	55,305	49,153	
176	ZONING BOARD				
	Clerical, Part Time	10,223	13,025	13,085	
	Operating Expense	707	705	705	
	Legal Notices - Zoning	4,949	4,950	4,950	
		15,879	18,680	18,740	
	Pension & Benefits	148	189	190	
		16,027	18,869	18,930	

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	1,046,576	1,147,454	1,171,848	
	Operating Expense	1,081,936	1,127,817	1,118,740	
	ATM Authorization	2,128,512	2,275,271	2,290,589	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	127,908	22,263	150,565	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	429,421	503,110	570,817	
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,685,841	2,800,643	3,011,971	
	PUBLIC SAFETY				
210	POLICE DEPARTMENT				
	Police Chief	108,891	110,890	116,300	
	Police Lieutenant Salary, incl shift diff	77,402	92,508	96,041	
	Police Sergeants	221,274	240,006	248,637	
	Police Officers, incl OT, Court Time and Shift Diff	818,711	814,433	839,939	Base pay level funded pending new contract; 25,000 in OT savings
	Civilian Dispatchers	4,533	100,533	96,000	
	Other Staff Salaries & Wages	84,123	86,291	87,732	
	Personnel Expenses-Uniforms, Training, Travel	28,861	28,859	29,453	
	Vehicle Expense-Fuel, Maintenance	41,195	41,195	41,477	
	Facilities Expense	42,420	42,595	42,770	
	Equipment Maintenance-Radio, Computer	39,520	39,518	37,034	Copier exp transferred to IS&T
	Telephone	14,750	14,750	9,417	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
	Other Operating Expense	10,100	10,100	10,100	
		1,491,780	1,621,678	1,654,900	
	Debt Service	211,273	207,580	203,000	
	Pension & Benefits	398,530	434,919	448,077	
		2,101,583	2,264,177	2,305,977	
212	TRAFFIC & PARKING				
	Sergeant Stipend	6,433	7,800	7,956	
	Parking Meter Attendants	11,545	11,545	11,775	
	Personnel Expenses per Contract-Transportation	16,626	24,625	24,866	
	Operating Expense	8,981	16,578	8,996	
		43,586	60,548	53,593	
	Pension & Benefits	261	281	286	
		43,846	60,829	53,879	
215	LIFEGUARDS				
	Lifeguards (Seasonal)	21,204	45,504	46,414	
	Operating Expense	7,918	7,918	7,918	
		29,122	53,422	54,332	
	Pension & Benefits	307	660	673	
		29,430	54,082	55,005	
220	FIRE DEPARTMENT				
	Fire Inspector/Chief	18,917	18,917	21,720	
	Firefighter Stipends (AOC)	116,521	116,525	118,855	
	PT, Seasonal & Special Labor	5,744	5,814	5,930	
	Personnel Expense-Training	13,504	17,004	17,303	
	Vehicle Expense-Fuel, Maintenance, Equipment	21,068	22,065	22,285	
	Facilities Expense-Heating, Electrical	33,580	33,580	45,648	
	Other Operating Expense	6,504	6,503	5,721	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		215,839	220,408	237,462	
	Debt Service	128,660	131,700	131,184	
	Pension & Benefits	19,108	20,272	19,316	
		363,607	372,380	387,962	
225	FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT				
	Forest Fire Warden Stipend	3,062	3,154	3,217	
	Deputy Stipends	4,333	4,350	4,437	
	Firefighter Stipends	16,769	17,030	17,371	
	Labor, Part Time	1,212	1,210	1,234	
	Operating Expense	3,115	3,109	404	Internet exp transferred to IS&T
		28,491	28,853	26,663	
	Pension & Benefits	368	373	381	
		28,859	29,226	27,044	

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
231	AMBULANCE				
	Department Head	8,223	8,223	8,387	
	Direct Labor (Stipend)	78,220	79,920	81,518	
	PT Labor & EMT per call Wages	28,027	28,024	28,585	
	Personnel Expense-Training, Dues	9,090	9,090	9,181	
	Vehicle Expense-Maintenance, Fuel	6,409	7,409	7,483	
	Outside Services-Billing, Medical	21,715	21,715	21,932	
	Other Operating Expense	11,156	10,155	9,246	Phone/internet exp to IS&T
		162,840	164,536	166,332	
	Pension & Benefits	1,669	1,684	1,718	
		164,509	166,221	168,050	
241	INSPECTION SERVICES				
	Building Inspector Salary	65,445	67,880	69,238	
	Part-time Labor	42,964	43,121	43,380	
	Operating Expense	6,584	6,950	6,745	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		114,992	117,951	119,363	
	Pension & Benefits	51,048	56,923	57,257	
		166,040	174,874	176,620	
249	ANIMAL INSPECTOR				
	Animal Inspector Stipend (APT)	1,672	1,748	1,783	
	Operating Expense	230	230	130	
		1,902	1,978	1,913	
	Pension & Benefits	24	25	26	
		1,926	2,003	1,939	
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT				
	Director's / Deputy's Stipends	4,250	4,378	4,465	
	Operating Expense	750	750	-	
		5,000	5,128	4,465	
	Pension & Benefits	62	63	65	
		5,062	5,191	4,530	
292	DOG CONTROL				
	Dog Officer Salary (APT)	8,883	8,158	8,321	
	Assistant Animal Control Officer	3,602	3,765	3,840	
	Operating Expense	4,486	4,485	3,980	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		16,971	16,408	16,141	
	Pension & Benefits	181	173	176	
		17,152	16,581	16,317	
293	PARKING CLERK				
	Hearing Officer Stipend	1,225	1,237	1,288	
	Parking Clerk	15,022	15,172	17,424	
	Operating Expense	3,331	3,358	2,773	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
	Admin&Collection Services	24,130	24,130	24,371	
		43,708	43,897	45,856	
	Pension & Benefits	236	238	271	
		43,943	44,135	46,127	
295	HARBORMASTERS/SHELLFISH				
	Harbormasters	42,594	43,230	44,095	
	Assistant Harbormasters	3,665	3,830	3,907	
	Asst Shellfish Officer & Warden	3,371	3,531	3,602	
	Seasonal, Part-Time	17,191	11,972	12,211	
	Equipment Maintenance-Radios	6,767	7,441	7,515	
	Boat Maintenance	9,230	10,153	10,256	
	Float, Ramp Repair/Replacement	27,977	28,954	29,244	
	Office & Other Operating Expense	11,477	15,610	15,380	
		122,272	124,721	126,210	
	Debt Service	-	-	3,785	
	Pension & Benefits	30,592	32,428	31,855	
		152,864	157,149	161,850	

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
297	HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE	515	515	515	
	PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	1,845,029	2,000,700	2,055,602	
	Operating Expense	431,989	459,343	452,143	
	ATM Authorization	2,277,018	2,460,043	2,507,745	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	339,933	339,280	337,969	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	502,385	548,040	560,102	
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	3,119,335	3,347,363	3,405,816	
400	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS				
	ADMINISTRATION				
	Stipends, Salaries & Wages	196,345	240,090	244,692	Phone/copier transferred to IS&T
	Office Expenses	35,949	34,691	21,869	
		232,294	274,782	266,561	
	Pension & Benefits	63,175	71,258	78,568	
		295,470	346,040	345,129	
	PUBLIC PROPERTY (incl parks & seasonal)				
	Wages, Regular & OT	306,733	330,460	336,713	
	Operating Expense	276,517	290,008	195,067	
		583,250	620,468	531,780	
	Pension & Benefits	140,041	149,280	151,393	
		723,292	769,748	683,173	
	HIGHWAY, GENERAL (incl gar, water, wastewater, OT)				
	Wages, Regular	243,827	254,821	259,918	
	Wages, OT	36,928	13,482	14,342	
	Highway Expense	222,205	226,495	228,761	
	Garage Expense	74,531	73,357	73,479	
		577,490	568,155	576,500	
	Pension & Benefits	103,265	110,348	113,285	
		680,756	678,504	689,785	
	HIGHWAY, SNOW & ICE				
	Wages, Regular	35,803	37,191	37,934	
	Wages, OT	38,692	39,272	40,058	
	Operating Expense	39,986	40,388	40,388	
		114,481	116,851	118,380	
	Pension & Benefits	11,193	14,505	15,114	
		125,675	131,356	133,494	
	TRANSFER STATION				
	Wages, Regular & OT	100,139	110,733	112,773	
	Operating Expense, mostly haulage	282,954	285,322	286,664	
		383,093	396,055	399,437	
	Pension & Benefits	32,926	35,121	36,060	
		416,019	431,176	435,497	
	CEMETERY				
	Wages, Regular & OT	106,479	113,367	115,574	
	Operating Expense	8,928	9,320	9,415	
		115,407	122,687	124,989	
	Pension & Benefits	52,831	56,339	57,039	
		168,238	179,026	182,028	
	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	1,064,947	1,139,416	1,162,004	
	Operating Expense	941,070	959,582	855,643	
	ATM Authorization	2,006,017	2,098,998	2,017,647	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	716,173	494,444	572,127	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	403,432	436,851	451,459	
	TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	3,125,622	3,030,293	3,041,233	

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
500	HEALTH AND WELFARE				
510	BOARD OF HEALTH				
	Board Members Stipends	-	-	546	
	Sanitary Inspector	33,358	33,860	34,535	
	PT Admin Asst	15,292	15,525	15,836	
	Seasonal Labor - Beach Testing	1,254	1,275	1,298	
	PT Public Health Nurse	5,790	6,420	5,591	
	Operating Expense	25,350	26,700	22,050	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		81,044	83,780	79,856	
	Pension & Benefits	21,757	23,620	24,025	
		102,802	107,400	103,881	
541	COUNCIL ON AGING				
	Director	41,176	41,175	41,998	
	Clerical Part Time	-	2,400	2,448	
	Operating Expense	15,176	14,641	13,487	Phone exp transferred to IS&T
		56,352	58,216	57,933	
	Pension & Benefits	26,967	28,526	28,381	
		83,319	86,742	86,314	
543	VETERANS SERVICES				
	Veterans Agent Stipend	3,117	3,165	3,228	
	Operating Expense	520	520	520	
	Veterans Allowances	60,000	60,000	60,000	
		63,637	63,685	63,748	
	Pension & Benefits	45	46	47	
		63,682	63,731	63,795	
	HEALTH AND WELFARE SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	99,987	103,820	105,480	
	Operating Expense	101,046	101,861	96,057	
	ATM Authorization	201,033	205,681	201,537	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	48,770	52,191	52,454	
	TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	249,803	257,872	253,991	
600	CULTURE AND RECREATION				
610	LIBRARY				
	Department Head	69,532	70,575	71,987	
	Other Direct Labor	252,663	264,237	265,343	
	Operating Expense	4,217	4,213	4,253	
	Energy	28,230	28,230	28,512	
	Library Materials (19%)	94,000	96,764	98,055	
	Contractual	43,200	43,953	46,096	
		491,843	507,972	514,246	
	Debt Service	-	-	1,860	
	Pension & Benefits	138,342	147,432	148,286	
		630,185	655,404	664,392	
630	RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE				
	Recreation Director (incl seasonal labor)	26,997	27,000	27,540	
	Clerical Part-time	12,960	12,960	13,219	
	Operating Expense	6,699	4,370	10,060	
		46,656	44,330	50,819	
	Pension & Benefits	391	392	399	
		47,048	44,722	51,218	
635	GRANITE PIER				
	Seasonal Labor	12,569	12,755	12,755	
	Operating Expense	8,989	8,989	8,989	
		21,558	21,744	21,744	
	Pension & Benefits	182	185	185	
		21,740	21,929	21,929	

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

ARTICLE 5: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
Dept #	Department/Description	FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
638	THACHER & STRAIGHTSMOUTH ISLAND				
	Direct Labor	5,150	5,150	9,200	
	Fuel	6,000	6,000	6,000	
	Other Operating Expense	4,550	4,550	4,550	
		15,700	15,700	19,750	
	Pension & Benefits	75	75	133	
		15,775	15,775	19,883	
692	MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE	2,609	2,608	2,608	
	CULTURE and RECREATION SUMMARY				
	Labor	379,872	392,677	400,044	
	Operating Expense	198,494	199,677	209,123	
	ATM Authorization	578,366	592,354	609,167	
	Debt Service	-	-	1,860	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	138,991	148,083	149,004	
	TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATIONAL	717,357	740,437	760,031	
700	DEBT AND INTEREST				
	Maturing Debt Principal	1,234,000	894,000	889,000	
	Maturing Debt Interest	242,093	248,593	274,272	
	Temporary Debt Principal	-	-	188,696	5-Year Computer Plan
	Temporary Debt Interest	1,728	24,110	11,803	
	TOTAL DEBT AND INTEREST	1,477,821	1,166,703	1,363,771	
900	OTHER				
911	RETIREMENT FUND, ESSEX REGIONAL	1,067,646	1,198,469	1,376,414	
912	NON-CONTRIBUTORY PENSION	9,572	-	-	
913	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	25,000	50,000	50,500	
914	GROUP INSURANCE				
	Health	3,773,640	3,839,678	3,812,910	
	Life	11,639	11,639	12,803	
		3,785,279	3,851,317	3,825,712	
916	FICA/MEDICARE	187,875	225,001	232,033	
917	SICK LEAVE / BUY-BACK	57,538	87,720	89,474	Reduced to guideline
940	INSURANCE EXPENSE	370,255	382,765	418,411	
943	FUND TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND	86,081	-	-	
	TOTAL OTHER	5,589,245	5,795,272	5,992,545	
	ARTICLE 5 TOWN DEPARTMENT SUMMARY				
	Salaries, Wages & Stipends	4,436,411	4,784,066	4,894,979	
	Pension & Benefits (Incl in 900)	2,828,390	3,032,874	3,191,933	
	Operating Expenses	3,210,871	3,231,045	3,150,117	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	1,203,746	998,128	1,147,887	
	TOTAL ARTICLE 5 BEFORE SCHOOLS	11,679,418	12,046,113	12,384,916	
	PUBLIC EDUCATION - TOWN CONTRIBUTION				
300	Base Funding from Town - ATM APPROPRIATION	9,780,672	10,232,038	10,727,560	
	One time SPED Contribution	-	253,000	-	
	Pensions & Benefits (Incl in 900)	2,304,519	2,379,633	2,382,201	
	Debt Service (Incl in 700)	274,075	168,575	215,884	
305	North Shore Vocational Tech-ATM APPROPRIATION	143,838	162,217	178,596	
	TOTAL PUBLIC EDUCATION	12,503,104	13,195,463	13,504,241	
	GRAND TOTAL ARTICLE 5	24,182,522	25,241,576	25,889,157	

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve the Finance Committee's recommended general operating budget expenses that will be covered by taxes, local receipts, grants, state aid and other sources of revenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 5.

ARTICLE 5A

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any and all Town expenses and purposes including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's Water Enterprise and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto.

(Finance Committee)

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate from Water enterprise fund revenues the sum of \$1,649,200 for all items under the FY15 FinCom Recommendation column on the Table of Estimates under Article 5A, Water Enterprise for the operation of the Town's Water Enterprise on page 51 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, and provide for a reserve fund if necessary, all for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, inclusive.

ARTICLE 5A: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
		FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
	WATER ENTERPRISE				
	Administration	66,457	67,454	68,803	
	Direct Labor	456,563	467,985	477,345	
	Overtime	18,047	18,318	17,664	
	Fuel, Light and Power	161,278	171,890	173,609	
	Operating Expense	171,471	194,486	190,722	IS&T
	Clothing Expense	3,400	3,434	3,468	
	Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000	50,000	
	Debt Service	158,402	162,857	231,529	
	Shared Employees Wages, P&B	152,525	152,525	152,525	
	Direct Pensions & Benefits	225,743	240,790	250,335	
	Bldg/Liability Insurance	33,200	33,200	33,200	
	Transfer to Sewer	1,501			
	ARTICLE 5A SUMMARY				
	Labor	541,068	553,757	563,812	
	Energy	161,278	171,890	173,609	
	Operating Expense	224,871	247,920	244,190	
	Debt Service	158,402	162,857	231,529	
	Reimbursement for Services Authorized in the General Fund	412,969	426,515	436,060	
	TOTAL ARTICLE 5A	1,498,587	1,562,939	1,649,200	

TOWN MEETING VOTERS BOOKLET

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve the Finance Committee's recommended Water Enterprise operating expenses that will be covered by water fees, betterments and other sources of Water Enterprise revenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 5A.

ARTICLE 5B

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any and all Town expenses and purposes including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's Sewer Enterprise and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. (Finance Committee)

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate from Sewer enterprise fund revenues the sum of \$1,801,596 for all items under the FY15 FinCom Recommendation column on the Table of Estimates under Article 5B, Sewer Enterprise for the operation of the Town's Sewer Enterprise on page 52 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, and provide for a reserve fund if necessary, all for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, inclusive.

ARTICLE 5B: TABLE OF ESTIMATES					
		FY13	FY14 Appropriated	FY15 FinCom Recommendation	Comments
	SEWER ENTERPRISE				
	Administration	72,457	70,499	71,909	
	Direct Labor	435,511	446,723	455,659	
	Overtime	16,918	17,171	16,495	
	Fuel, Light and Power	230,060	232,360	234,684	
	Operating Expense	239,799	241,507	245,878	Phone exp transferred to IS&T; Increased Gloucester chgs for extended lease
	Reserve Fund	271,510	50,000	50,000	
	Retained Earnings Deficit Reduction	37,083	37,083	37,083	
	Debt Service	469,689	459,539	298,617	
	Shared Employees	111,576	111,576	111,576	
	Pensions & Benefits	210,375	224,673	251,995	
	Bldg/Liability Insurance	27,700	27,700	27,700	
	ARTICLE 5B SUMMARY				
	Labor	524,886	534,394	544,063	
	Energy	230,060	232,360	234,684	
	Operating Expense	548,392	328,590	332,961	
	Debt Service	469,689	459,539	298,617	
	Reimbursement for Services Authorized in the General Fund	349,651	363,949	391,271	
	TOTAL ARTICLE 5B	2,122,678	1,918,832	1,801,596	

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SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve the Finance Committee's recommended Sewer Enterprise operating expenses that will be covered by sewer fees, betterments and other sources of Sewer Enterprise revenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 5B.

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items, such sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee)*

MOTION

1. I move that the Town appropriate \$580,040 for the items printed in the FY2015 Capital Outlay list on page 54 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet under Article 6, Section A – General Fund as items under number 1 and to meet this appropriation, \$253,400 shall be transferred from Free Cash, \$89,660 shall be transferred from Parking Meter Reserve, \$92,980 shall be transferred from the Wide Area Network account and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects and purchases.
2. I move that the Town appropriate \$160,020 for the items printed in the FY2015 Capital Outlay list on page 54 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet under Article 6, Section A – General Fund as items under number 2 and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$160,020 pursuant to G.L. Ch. 44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these purchases. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

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ARTICLE 6

FY2015 CAPITAL OUTLAY

Section A – General Fund			<u>Number 1</u> Paid From	<u>Number 2</u> Paid From	<u>Number 1</u> Paid From	
	Description	Requested	Free Cash	Borrowing	Other Funding	
General Government	Voting Machines	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000			
	Long Beach Survey	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000			
Information Systems & Technologies	School Network Upgrades	\$153,000		\$ 60,020	\$ 92,980	WAN Netwk Fnd
	School Intercom & Clocks	\$100,000		\$100,000		
Police	Cruiser Replacement	\$ 40,660			\$ 40,660	Pkg Mtr Fund
	Parking Meter Upgrades	\$ 49,000			\$ 49,000	Pkg Mtr Fund
					\$ 89,660	
Schools	School Pickup Truck	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000			
	Carpet Replacement	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			
	Kitchen Equipment	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			
	Bathroom Upgrades	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000			
Public Works	General Road Improvements	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000			
	Hwy Drain Pipes & Equip	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			
	Fuel Monitoring Equipment	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000			
	GPS – GF Portion (33 1/3 %)	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400			
TOTAL		\$596,060	\$ 253,400	\$160,020	\$ 89,660	\$92,980

ARTICLE 6A

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items for the Water Enterprise, sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto.
(Finance Committee)

MOTION

1. I move that the Town appropriate \$11,700 for Water Meter Replacements, \$50,000 for Water Main Replacement, \$10,000 for Rapid Sand Filter & Sediment Basin Rehab, \$50,000 for Flat Ledge Quarry Pumping Improvements, and \$5,400 for the Water Enterprise Fund portion of the DPW GPS for the following items in the column marked "Requested" under Article 6A, Section B – Water Enterprise Fund, on page 55 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet, and to meet this appropriation \$67,100 shall be transferred from Water Surplus and \$10,000 shall be funded from the Water Enterprise Fund Operations, and that the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out these projects and purchases.
2. I move that the Town appropriate \$150,000 for Pigeon Hill Water Tank Additional Funds and \$50,000 for Flat Ledge Quarry Pumping Improvements as listed under 6A, Section B, Water

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Enterprise Fund, on page 55 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$200,000 for such purposes under G.L. Ch. 44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor, with the intent that, while such bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the Town, the payment of the debt service on such borrowing be made from the Water Enterprise fund; and that the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

ARTICLE 6A		FY2015 CAPITAL OUTLAY			
Section B – Water Enterprise Fund			Paid From	Paid From	From Transfers:
Description	Requested	Free Cash	Borrowing	Amount	Description
25 Pigeon Hill Water Tank Additional Funds	\$150,000		\$150,000		
Water Meter Replacements	\$ 11,700	\$ 11,700			
Water Main Replacement	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000			
Rapid Sand Filter & Sed Basin Rehab	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	Water Ops
Flat Ledge Quarry Pumping Improvements	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000		
GPS – Water Portion (33 1/3 %)	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400			
TOTAL WATER ENTERPRISE	\$277,100	\$ 67,100	\$200,000	\$ 10,000	

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve the FY15 Capital Outlay appropriations for the Water Enterprise as recommended by the Finance Committee and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 6A.

ARTICLE 6B

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items for the Sewer Enterprise, sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and which is incorporated herein by reference, and determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto.

(Finance Committee)

MOTION

1. I move that the Town appropriate \$307,100 for the items under Article 6B as printed on page 56 of the Town Meeting Voters Booklet and to meet this appropriation, \$307,100 shall be

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transferred from Sewer Surplus, and that the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

2. I move that the Town appropriate \$190,000 for the Grit Pumps & Detritor Mechanism as listed marked "Requested" under Article 6B, Sewer Enterprise Fund, on page 56 in the Town Meeting Voters Booklet and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$190,000 for such purposes under G.L. Ch. 44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor, with the intent that, while such bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the Town, the payment of the debt service on such borrowing be made from the Sewer Enterprise fund; and that the Board of Selectmen and the DPW Commissioners are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project. *(requires 2/3 vote)*

ARTICLE 6B		FY2015 CAPITAL OUTLAY		
Section C – Sewer Enterprise Fund			Paid From	Paid From
	Description	Requested	Free Cash	Borrowing
26	Fine Bubble System Repairs	\$100,000	\$100,000	
	Grit Pumps & Detritor Mechanism	\$380,000	\$190,000	\$190,000
	Water Meter Replacements	\$ 11,700	\$ 11,700	
	GPS – Sewer Portion (33 1/3 %)	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400	
	TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 497,100	\$ 307,100	\$ 190,000

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting approve the FY15 Capital Outlay appropriations for the Sewer Enterprise as recommended by the Finance Committee and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article 6A.

ARTICLE A

To see if the Town will vote to expend a sum of money allocated to the Town under the provisions of Section 34(2)(a) of M.G.L. c.90, so-called "Chapter 90 monies"; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Department of Public Works)*

MOTION

I move that the Town expend the sum of \$290,218 or such other sum as is made available to the Town under the provisions of §34(2)(a) of G.L. Ch. 90.

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SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests authorization to accept and expend the funds received from the state for maintenance and improvements to the Town's roads and other applicable public works projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article A.

ARTICLE B

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds \$3,000 or any other sum, for Action, Inc.; or act on anything relative thereto.

(Board of Selectmen)

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to Action, Inc., 180 Main Street, Gloucester, MA.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article funds a grant to Action for benefit support services, housing assistance and safety net services for Rockport residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article B.

ARTICLE C

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC); or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to HAWC, 27 Congress Street, Salem, MA.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article funds a grant to HAWC for operation funds for legal advice, safety planning and access to a 24-hour hotline for Rockport residents.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article C.

ARTICLE D

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for SeniorCare, Inc.; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to SeniorCare, Inc., 5 Blackburn Center, Gloucester, MA.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article funds a grant to SeniorCare for safety net programs, in-home and elder care services for Rockport residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article D.

ARTICLE E

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000 or any other sum, for The Open Door or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a grant to The Open Door, 28 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article funds a grant to The Open Door to help defray costs of operating and providing food pantry services for Rockport residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article E.

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ARTICLE F

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to pay for state mandated real and personal property revaluations; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Assessors)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 to a Property Valuations Fund for the purposes of Article F as printed in the warrant.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to approve \$75,000 for the Assessors' mandated property revaluations. It is a standard annual article intended to set money aside systematically, because revaluations occur on a 3-year and a 10-year schedule, and the actual cost varies widely from year to year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article F.

ARTICLE G

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to the General Stabilization fund to pay for future expenditures; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (requires 2/3 vote)*

MOTION

No Motion.

ARTICLE H

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to the Capital Reserve Stabilization fund to pay for future capital expenditures; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (requires 2/3 vote)*

MOTION

No Motion.

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ARTICLE I

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash a sum money to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund created under Article N of the April 3, 2010 Annual Town Meeting to cover future benefit obligations to retired employees; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*

MOTION

I move that the Town appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$79,618 or some other sum to the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund for the purposes of Article I as printed in the warrant.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to place \$79,618 (or some other amount stated at Town Meeting) into the OPEB Trust Fund to decrease the Town's liability of unfunded health insurance premiums for retirees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article I.

ARTICLE J

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$120,000 to the Capital Technology account to pay for computers, networks, communications, and other technology tools and devices; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Information Systems and Technologies)*

MOTION

No Motion.

ARTICLE K

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Section 5B of G.L. c.40 to create a special purpose stabilization fund for use by the School Committee for special education-related expenses, and for such purposes, to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds sums of money into said special purpose stabilization fund; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (requires 2/3 vote)*

MOTION

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I move that the Town create a special purpose stabilization fund for use by the School Committee for special education-related expenses and for such purposes to appropriate and transfer from the following accounts those amounts as listed below and totaling \$200,000:

Miscellaneous Contributions	\$ 172.67
High School Conference Build Fund	\$ 7,133.51
Elementary Maps	\$ 2,781.97
School Health Index	\$ 304.52
Middle School Music Fund	\$ 751.77
Shlopak Technical Fund	\$ 460.00
Tower Fund Unexpended Balance	\$ 26,271.95
2004 Technology Fund	\$ 190.02
2009 Foundation Reserve	\$ 9,000.00
Free Cash	\$152,933.59

(requires 2/3 vote)

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to establish a special fund and seed it with \$200,000 for the Schools to use to buffer the unpredictable ups and downs of state mandated special education costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recommend approval of Article K.

ARTICLE L

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate additional sums of money for any or all Rockport Public School expenses and purposes, including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Schools' departments and offices, and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, provided, however, that all additional appropriations authorized under this article be contingent upon voters' approval of a so-called Proposition 2½ override exclusion, as provided in G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C; or act on anything relative thereto. *(School Committee)*

MOTION

No Motion.

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ARTICLE M

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation exempting the position of Police Chief from the Civil Service Law, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general objectives of the petition.

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE POSITION OF POLICE CHIEF OF THE TOWN OF ROCKPORT FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the position of police chief of the Town of Rockport, shall be exempt from chapter 31 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. Section 1 shall not impair the civil service status of any persons serving in the position of police chief in the town of Rockport on the effective date of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen) (majority vote)*

MOTION

I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation exempting the position of Police Chief from the Civil Service Law as set forth in article M in the warrant, provided that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general objectives of the petition.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court to exempt the Police Chief position from Civil Service in order to allow the Town to have more options with respect to recruiting and hiring for that position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen supports this article.

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ARTICLE N

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee to or any lesser interest, including, without limitation, a lease with a term of thirty (30) years, in the below described parcel of land located on Straitsmouth Island and shown on Assessors Map 29 as Lots 1 and 2, off the coast of Rockport, Essex County, Massachusetts and/or the improvements thereon, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said thirty (30) year lease agreement for a nominal fee for occupation of the two historic structures on Straitsmouth Island known as the Keeper's House and the Oil House and the land thereunder and other property rights appurtenant thereto as to provide access to said structures, and to execute such other documents and take such other action as it deems to be in the best interest of the Town for the purpose of preserving, maintaining, and accessing said historic and the separate lighthouse parcel on said island owned by the Town of Rockport; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Committee)*

MOTION

I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease from the Massachusetts Audubon Society a parcel of land or any portion thereof and the improvements thereon located on Straitsmouth Island and shown on Assessors Map 29 as Lot 2 for a 30 year lease and for such a fees, including a nominal fee, as the Board of Selectmen deems to be appropriate, and to execute such other documents and take such other action as it deems to be in the best interest of the Town for the purpose of Article N as printed in the warrant.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests the Town Meeting to give the Selectmen authority to acquire a lease or other legal right to the Straitsmouth Island property. The Thacher Island Association has been working with Mass Audubon on restoring the buildings on Straitsmouth Island. For legal reasons, the Town should obtain a lease before undertaking responsibility for more of the work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

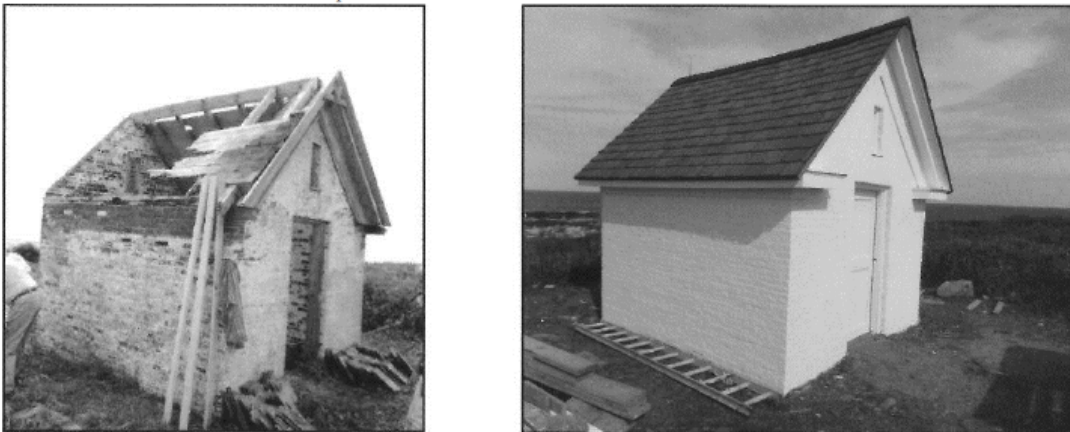
The Board of Selectmen supports this article.

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Help us continue the progress on Straitsmouth Island.



Keeper House and Oil House before 2010 and after 2013



Approval of Articles N and O will enable us to:

- Preserve Straitsmouth Light Station that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
 - House volunteer keepers to welcome visitors as we do on Thacher Island.
 - Provide public walking trails for passive recreation.
 - Develop a new, safer access point for visitors.
 - Support Mass Audubon's maintenance of the island as a wildlife sanctuary.
 - Maintain Rockport's maritime heritage and scenic vistas for all to enjoy.
- Continue funding by the Thacher Island Association as has been done for Thacher since 1983.

Thank You for your support.

Thacher /Straitsmouth Island Town Committee and the Thacher Island Association.

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ARTICLE O

To see if the Town will vote to amend its vote taken under Article F, fifth, of the September 9, 2013 Fall Town Meeting, appropriating Community Preservation Act funds in the amount of \$25,000 as a grant to the Thatcher Island Association for the restoration and preservation of the Straitsmouth Island Lighthouse, to further provide that such funds may be used for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the other two historic structures on Straitsmouth Island, known as the Straitsmouth Island Keeper's House and the Oil House, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or act on anything relative thereto.

(Community Preservation Committee)

MOTION

I move that the Town amend its vote taken under Article F, fifth, of the September 9, 2013 Fall Town Meeting, appropriating Community Preservation Act funds in the amount of \$25,000 as a grant to the Thatcher Island Association for the restoration and preservation of the Straitsmouth Island Lighthouse, to further provide that such funds may be used for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the other two historic structures on Straitsmouth Island, known as the Straitsmouth Island Keeper's House and the Oil House, including all incidental costs related thereto.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article requests Town Meeting to expand the purpose of the 2013 appropriation to allow restoration work on the Straitsmouth Island Keeper's House and Oil House as well as the Lighthouse. No additional funds are requested from the Community Preservation Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen supports this article.

ARTICLE P

To see if the Town will vote to transfer care, custody and control of the parcels listed below from the tax custodian for the purpose of sale at public auction to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of said properties on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate and to execute such documents and take such other action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote; said properties being identified as follows:

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Address of 33 Atlantic Avenue as shown on Assessors Map 22, Lot 140

Address of 59 High Street as shown on Assessors Map 18, Lot 26

Address of 8 Marmion Way as shown on Assessors Map 26, Lot 109

; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Board of Selectmen)*

MOTION

I move that the Town transfer care, custody and control of the three parcels as listed in Article P of the warrant, from the tax custodian for the purpose of sale at a public action to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to convey said parcels, as set forth in Article P as printed in the warrant.

(requires 2/3 vote)

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to allow the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise deal with three properties now owned by the Town for non-payment of taxes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen supports this article.

ARTICLE Q

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section VIII of the Zoning By-Laws, "Coastal Flood Plain", by deleting the first paragraph of Section VIII Coastal Flood Plain District, Section B.1 and inserting in place thereof with the following:

"The Coastal Flood Plain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Rockport designated as Zone AE, AO, or VE on the Essex County Flood Insurance Rate Map ("FIRM" or "Map") issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The map panels of the Essex County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Rockport are panel numbers 25009C0309G, 25009C0317G, 25009C0319G, 25009C0328G, 25009C0336G, 25009C0337G, 25009C0338G, 25009C0339G, 25009C0476G and 25009C0500G dated July 16, 2014. The exact boundaries of the District are defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Essex County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated July 16, 2014. The FIRM and Flood Insurance Study report are incorporated herein by reference and

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are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, Building Inspector and Conservation Commission.”

; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Planning Board) (requires 2/3 vote)*

MOTION

I move that the Town amend Section VIII of the Zoning By-Laws, “Coastal Flood Plain” as described in Article Q and printed in the warrant.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

Report of the Planning Board – The Planning Board submitted Article Q to amend section VIII of the Zoning Bylaws entitled Coastal Flood Plain. This article asks the Town to accept the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps issued by FEMA. The proposed maps reflect the changes made based on the successful appeal filed by the Town. This article is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in order for the Town to continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and for property owners to continue to obtain flood insurance for their properties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen, Building Inspector, and the Planning Board support this article.

ARTICLE R

To see if the Town will vote to retain ‘SWAPSHOP’ and ‘BOOKBARN’ facilities items for personal use for Rockport residents, and re-open the ‘METAL PILE’ to residents seeking items for personal use; or act on anything relative thereto. *(By Petition)*

MOTION

I move that the Town retain the “Swap Shop” and “Book Barn” facilities’ items for personal use for Rockport residents and re-open the “Metal Pile” to residents seeking items for personal use.

ARTICLE S

To see if the Town will hear, receive and act upon the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Town Water Supply appointed pursuant to the vote of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article 6 and extended by votes of successive Annual Town Meetings through and including the 2013 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article W, and extend the term of the Committee; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Moderator)*

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MOTION

I move that the Town hear, receive and act upon the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Town Water Supply appointed pursuant to vote of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article 6 and extended by votes of successive Annual Town Meetings through and including the 2013 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article W, and extend the term of the Committee.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article allows the Town to receive and act upon the report of the Committee and extends its term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Selectmen supports this article.

ARTICLE T

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of its officers, boards, departments, committees and commissions, as printed in the 2013 Annual Town Report or as otherwise submitted to Town Meeting; or act on anything relative thereto. (Moderator)

MOTION

I move that the Town accepts the reports of its officers, boards, departments, committees and commissions, as printed in the 2013 Annual Town Report or as otherwise submitted to Town Meeting.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

This article asks Town Meeting to accept the annual reports written in the Annual Town Report book rather than requiring these reports to be given directly to the voters at this Town Meeting. In addition, the following is an update of the annual report of the Economic Development Committee:

Economic Development Committee Update

The Economic Development Committee (EDC), charged with promotion of the Town of Rockport, has identified several priorities that will be the focus of activity for the immediate future. They are the need to adjust the town's demographics to include more young people with families and the need to attract more businesses to locate here. In addition, we recognize the value of continuing to promote the town's visitor industry especially during the less busy shoulder seasons of April/May and October/November.

EDC projects currently underway in support of these objectives include:

Business Blueprint – Noted economist Barry Bluestone, from Northeastern University's Dukakis Center, is due to conduct an extensive business analysis for the town to identify and then determine

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how we can realistically address our demographic and economic issues using hard statistical data. He will then meet with townspeople to work to develop an action plan based on the information collected.

Real Estate Roundtable – A focus group of young families with children is being convened to determine what factors motivate this demographic to move to Rockport, what social and traditional media were key to the decision-making, what the real estate price points were, and what type of housing was desirable.

Cape Ann App for Smart Phones and Devices – In conjunction with the four Cultural Districts in Rockport, Essex and Gloucester, the EDC is partnering in development and implementation of a Cape Ann specific application for smart phones and other devices that will showcase all that Rockport has to offer. The app can be used either for pre-planning or while visiting onsite and listings are free of charge.

Way-finding Path – In conjunction with students at RHS, the EDC will be painting a three-route walking trail between the Rockport Commuter Rail station and Dock Square, much like the Freedom Trail in Boston. These way-finding paths will easily bring visitors into and out of downtown, while alleviating sign clutter and eliminating the need for paper maps.

Promotional Outreach – Utilizing the services of a professional PR/Marketing agency, the EDC is continuing to attract visitors to Rockport especially during the shoulder seasons, speaking to young families who might be considering a move to Rockport, and encouraging appropriate businesses to think about locating in town. The agency is charged with reaching out locally, regionally, nationally and internationally via social media as well as newspapers and magazine to spread our messages and get out the buzz about Rockport.

Thank you for your support in helping EDC to develop and carry out these important, multi-year initiatives with positive funding and community input.

Respectfully Submitted, Lana Razdan, Chair, EDC